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PROPOSAL²

FOR

Making an effectual Provision

FOR THE

POOR,

FOR

Amending their MORALS,

AND FOR

Rendering them useful MEMBERS of the
SOCIETY.

By HENRY FIELDING, Esq;

Barrister at Law, and one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace
for the County of Middlesex.

*Ista sententia maximè et fallit imperitos, et obest sapissime Rei-
publicæ, cùm aliquid verum et rectum esse dicitur, sed obti-
neri, id est obsisti posse populo, negatur.*

Cic. de Leg. lib. 3.

D U B L I N:

Printed for JOHN SMITH, on the *Blind-Quay*, and
RICHARD JAMES, in *Dame-street*, Booksellers.
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TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

HENRY PELHAM,

Chancellor of his Majesty's Exchequer.

SIR,

IN addressing to you the following Sheets, I only embrace an Opportunity of expressing the deep Sense I have of the Obligations you have conferred on me: For it would be unreasonable to expect, that one in your Station should find sufficient Leisure to weigh and consider duly the Subject here treated of. While your Attention is so much engaged in Matters of higher Moment, it would seem hard, that no other should be willing to undertake this inferior Province of Government, or should indeed be equal to it; but that one Man should be obliged to support the whole.

AND yet, if ever there was a Time when a Minister of State might find such Leisure, I think it may be the present. It is true, indeed, that when a skilful Governor of a Ship hath brought his Vessel through Rocks, Quickfands and Storms, to ride safely before the Wind, he hath a Right to enjoy that Safety which he hath procured, and to indulge his own Ease; and yet even then, if he is informed that his Vessel is leaky, or some of the minutest Tackling in Disorder, should not he give some Attention to those inferior Matters which others neglect, which retard the Vessel in her Course, and may perhaps, however slowly, at last produce her Destruction?

THERE is, perhaps, Sir, something above the Stile of Prose in this Allusion, but there is nothing in it beyond that of Truth.

To return, however, to the plainest Stile : I here present you with that Plan which I had the Honour once to mention to you, and of which I have given a former Hint to the Public. If this be carried into Execution, it will in its Consequence, I am convinced, remove almost every Evil from the Society of which honest Men at present complain ; will complete the Obligations which Posterity shall owe to the present Age ; and will heap Praises on that Name which shall be then as much loved and honoured by Mankind, as it is now by,

SIR,

Your Most Obligated,

Most Humble,

And Most Obedient Servant,

Jan. 19. 1753.

HENRY FIELDING.

A

PROPOSAL

For making an effectual Provision
for the POOR, &c.

INTRODUCTION.

THAT the Strength and Riches of a Society consist in the Numbers of the People, is an Assertion which hath obtained the Force of an Axiom in Politics. This, however, supposes the Society to be so constituted, that those Numbers may contribute to the Good of the Whole: for could the contrary be imagined; could we figure to ourselves a State in which a great Part of the People, instead of contributing to the Good of the Public, should lie as a useless and heavy Burden on the rest of their Countrymen, the very Reverse of the above Maxim would be true; and the Numbers of such a People would be so far from giving any Strength to the Society, that they would weaken and oppress it; so that it would, in a merely civil Sense, be the Interest of such a Society to lessen its Numbers, and by some means or other to shake or lop off the useless and burthensome Part.

Numbers of Men, says Mr. Locke, are to be preferred to Largeness of Dominions; and the Reason, as he well observes, is, for that Labour puts the Difference of the Value on every Thing. 'Let any one consider,' says he, 'what the Difference is between an Acre of Land, planted with Tobacco or Sugar, sown with Wheat or Barley; and an Acre of the same Land lying in common, without any Husbandry upon it; and he will find, that the Improvement of Labour makes the far greater Part of the Value. I think it will be but a very modest Computation to say, that of the Products of the Earth, useful to
' the

‘ the Life of Man, $\frac{2}{3}$ are the Effects of Labour : Nay, if we
 ‘ rightly estimate Things, as they come to our Use, and cast up
 ‘ the several Expences about them, what in them is purely ow-
 ‘ ing to Nature, and what to Labour, we shall find in most of
 ‘ them $\frac{2}{3}$ are wholly to be put on the Account of Labour.’

In this alone, as he demonstrates, lies the Difference between
 us and the *Americans*, ‘ who are furnished by Nature as liberally
 ‘ as ourselves with all the Materials of Plenty, yet have not
 ‘ the one hundredth Part of the Conveniencies we enjoy ; and
 ‘ among whom a King of a large and fruitful Territory feeds,
 ‘ lodges, and is clad worse than a Day-Labourer in *England*.*

It is not barely, therefore, in the Numbers of People ; but in
 Numbers of People well and properly disposed, that we can
 truly place the Strength and Riches of a Society.

From the Universality of the Maxim which I have mentioned,
 qualified (I mean) as above, it seems to follow, that a State is
 capable of this Perfection, and that some States have actually
 been so constituted. Of this Kind particularly seem to me the
Ægyptian Policy of old, and that of *Holland* in modern Times.
 I do not mean to say that any Human Society is so absolutely
 capable of this Perfection, that every Individual shall contribute
 some Share to the Strength of the Whole. Nature hath denied
 us this, by laying certain Individuals, in every Society, under a
 natural Incapacity not only of administering to the Good of o-
 thers ; but even of providing for, and protecting, themselves.
 Such are the Incapacities of Infancy, and of old Age, and of
 Impotency either of Mind or Body, natural or accidental.

Of all these, Policy, perhaps, would dictate to us only to
 preserve the first ; and accordingly we read of Nations, among
 whom those Numbers who were either by Age, or any incurable
 Infirmary, rendered useless and burthensome to the Public,
 were without Mercy cut off by their Laws. But this neither
 Religion or Humanity will allow ; and therefore to this Burthen,
 which is imposed on us by God and Nature, we must submit ;
 nor will the Evil, while confined to such absolute Incapacity, be
 very grievous or much to be lamented.

From what I have here advanced, it seems, I think, apparent,
 that among a civilized People that Polity is the best established,
 in which all the Members, except such only as labour under any
 utter Incapacity, are obliged to contribute a Share to the
 Strength and Wealth of the Public. 2dly, That a State is ca-
 pable of this Degree of Perfection, and, consequently, that to
 effect this is the Business of every wise and good Legislature.

* Essay on Civil Government, II. d. Vol. of *Locke's Works*, pages
 178, 179.

And this seems to have been the great Aim of the first Founders of the *English* Constitution; by the Laws of which no Man whatsoever is exempted from performing such Duties to the Public as besit his Rank; according to the Observation of that most wonderful young Prince, *Quem tantum terris fata ostenderunt.* 'As there is no Part, says he, admitted in the Body that doth not work and take Pains, so ought there no Part of the Commonwealth to be, but labourfome in his Vocation. The Gentleman ought to labour in the Service of his Country; the Serving-man ought to wait diligently on his Master; the Artificer ought to labour in his Work; the Husbandman in tilling the Ground; the Merchant in passing the Tempests; but the Vagabonds ought clearly to be banished, as is the superfluous Humour of the Body; that is to say, the Spittle and Filth; which, because it is for no Use, is put out by the Strength of Human Nature*.' Thus far this *incomparable* young Prince, as the excellent Historian of the Reformation calls him; who was, says the Bishop, the *Wonder of his Time*, and indeed will be so of all succeeding Ages.

To divide the same kind of Labours equally among all the Members of Society, is so far from being necessary, that it is not even convenient; nor could it indeed be possible in any State, without such a perfect Equality in all its Branches as is inconsistent with all Government, and which besits only that which is sometimes called the State of Nature, but may more properly be called a State of Barbarism and Wildness.

Those Duties, however, which fall to the higher Ranks of Men, even in this Common-wealth, are by no Means of the lightest or easiest Kind. The Watchings and Fatigues, the Anxieties and Cares which attend the highest Stations, render their Possessors, in real Truth, no proper Objects of Envy to those in the lowest, whose Labours are much less likely to impair the Health of their Bodies, or to destroy the Peace of their Minds; are not less consistent with their Happiness, and much more consistent with their Safety.

It is true, indeed, that in every Society where Property is established and secured by Law, there will be some among the Rich whose Indolence is superior to the Love of Wealth and Honour, and who will therefore avoid these Public Duties, for which Avarice and Ambition will always furnish out a sufficient Number of Candidates; yet however idle the Lives of such may be, it must be observed, First, That they are by no Means burthensome to the Public, but do support themselves on what

* King *Edward's* Remains preserved at the End of the II^d. Vol. of Bishop *Burnet's* History of the Reformation, page 70.

the Law calls their own; a Property acquired by the Labour of their Ancestors; and often the Rewards, or Fruits at least, of Public Services. 2dly, That while they dispose what is their own for the Purposes of Idleness, (and more especially, perhaps, if for the Purposes of Luxury,) they may be well called useful Members of trading Commonwealths, and truly said to contribute to the Good of the Public.

But with the Poor (and such must be in any Nation where Property is, that is to say, where there are any Rich) this is not the Case: For having nothing but their Labour to bestow on the Society, if they withhold this from it, they become useless Members; and having nothing but their Labour to procure a Support for themselves, they must of Necessity become burthensome.

On this Labour the Public hath a Right to insist, since this is the only Service which the Poor can do that Society, which in some Way or other hath a Right to the Service of all its Members; and as this is the only Means by which they can avoid laying that Burthen on the Public, which in case of absolute Incapacity alone it is obliged to support.

Here then seems to arise a two-fold Duty to the Legislature; First, To procure to such the Means of Labour; and, 2dly, To compel them to undertake it. The former, indeed, naturally precedes the latter, and is presupposed by it: For if the Means of employing them be not to be found, the ablest Hands will be in the same Condition with the weakest, and will alike become a necessary Burthen on the Community: which is so far from being at Liberty to punish a Man for involuntary Idleness, that it is obliged to support him under it.

Both these, therefore, are the proper Business of every Legislature, and both for above a hundred Years together have been very much the Business of ours. If they have succeeded, I am sure I shall egregiously throw away my Time in composing the following Sheets; in which, however, I shall have the Consolation of much good Company to keep me in Countenance. To say Truth, if the Errors in our present Provisions are not very great and fatal, or if the Remedies proposed do not seem perfectly adequate to the Removal of them, I would, by no Means, advise any great Alteration: For, as the *Greek Historian* * observes of Laws in general, 'That City which is governed by the worse Laws, but those firm and stable, is in a safer Condition than the City where the Laws are better and more eligible in their original Institution, but where they are administered in a loose and fluctuating Manner.'

* *Thucydides.*

Which

Which Fluctuation in our own Laws hath been, I find, an old Complaint in this Kingdom. *Holingshed* tells us long ago, 'that our great Number of Laws was said to breed a general Negligence and Contempt of all good Order; because we have so many, sayshe, that no Subject can live without the Transgression of some of them; and in this respect the often Alteration of our Ordinances doth much Harm.'

But if there was any Occasion of this Complaint in his Time, I am sure there is much more now; for as to our Statute, they are increased much more than tenfold since the Reign of *Henry the VIII.* with such Variety of Alterations, Explanations, and Amendments, that in many Cases no good Lawyer will pretend readily to say what the Law at present is. Even in *Queen Anne's* Time there was a Cause determined in the Queen's Bench, expressly against the Letter of an Act of Parliament; which, as *Carthew*, who reports it, tells us, was not once mentioned, either at the Bar, or on the Bench; the Reason of which must have been, because it was unknown.

Nor is there any Walk in all this Wilderness of Laws more interfectured or more perplexed with Mazes and Confusion, than this which leads to the Provision for the Poor; and hence it is, that through no other Way a more plentiful Harvest hath of late Years been brought into *Westminster-hall*.

Sensible as I am of this Mischief, I should not venture to propose any further Experiments, if I was not also sensible, that the Disease is become absolutely intolerable; and had not at the same Time very sanguine Hopes that the Remedy, which I shall propose, will prove in the highest Degree effectual.

That the Poor are a very great Burthen, and even a Nuisance to this Kingdom; that the Laws for relieving their Distresses, and restraining their Vices, have not answered those Purposes; and that they are at present very ill provided for, and much worse governed, are Truths which every Man, I believe, will acknowledge. Such have been the unanimous Complaints of all the Writers who have considered this Matter down from the Days of *Queen Elizabeth*; such is apparently the Sense of our present Legislature, and such is the universal Voice of the Nation.

The Facts must be very glaring that can produce this unanimous Concurrence in Opinion; and so in Truth they are. Every Man who hath any Property, must feel the Weight of that Tax which is levied for the Use of the Poor; and every Man who hath any Understanding, must see how absurdly it is applied. So very uselessindeed is this heavy Tax, and so wretched its Disposition, that it is a Question whether the Poor or the Rich are actually more dissatisfied, or have indeed greater Reason

son to be dissatisfied; since the Plunder of the one serves so little to the real Advantage of the other: for while a Million yearly is raised among the former, many of the latter are starved; many more languish in Want and Misery; of the rest, Numbers are found begging or pilfering in the Streets To-day, and To-morrow are locked up in Goals and Bridewells.

Of all these deplorable Evils we have constant Evidence before our Eyes. The Sufferings of the Poor are indeed less observed than their Misdeeds; not from any Want of Compassion, but because they are less known; and this is the true Reason why we so often hear them mentioned with Abhorrence, and so seldom with Pity. But if we were to make a Progress through the Outskirts of this Town, and look into the Habitations of the Poor, we should there behold such Pictures of human Misery as must move the Compassion of every Heart that deserves the Name of human. What indeed must be his Composition who could see whole Families in Want of every Necessary of Life, oppressed with Hunger, Cold, Nakedness, and Filth, and with Diseases, the certain Consequence of all these; what, I say, must be his Composition, who could look into such a Scene as this, and be affected only in his Nostrils*?

That such Wretchedness as this is so little lamented, arises therefore from its being so little known; but if this be the Case with the Sufferings of the Poor, it is not so with their Misdeeds. They starve, and freeze, and rot among themselves; but they beg, and steal, and rob among their Betters. There is not a Parish in the Liberty of *Westminster* which doth not raise Thousands annually for the Poor, and there is not a Street in that Liberty which doth not swarm all Day with Beggars, and all Night with Thieves. Stop your Coach at what Shop you will, however expeditious the Tradesman is to attend you, a Beggar is commonly beforehand with him; and if you should not directly face his Door, the Tradesman must often turn his Head while you are talking to him, or the same Beggar, or some other Thief at hand, will pay a Visit to his Shop! I omit to speak of the more open and violent Insults which are every Day committed on his Majesty's Subjects in the Streets and Highways. They are enough known, and enough spoken of. The Depredations on Property are less noticed, particularly those in the Parishes within ten Miles of *London*. To these every Man is not obnoxious; and therefore it is not every Man's Business to suppress them. These are however grown to the most deplorable Height, insomuch that the Gentleman is daily; or rather nightly, plundered of his Pleasure, and the Farmer of his Livelihood.

* Some Member of Parliament actually made this Progress in Company with Mr. *Welch*, and owned the Truth exceeded their Imagination.

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But tho' some of these Articles are more universally notorious than others, they are in general enough known to raise an universal Indignation at a very heavy Tax levied for the Use of those who are no less a Nuisance than a Burthen to the Public; and by which, as woful Experience hath taught us, neither the Poor themselves, nor the Public are relieved.

With regard to the Evil, Men will agree almost unanimously; but with regard to the Remedy, I shall expect no such general Concurrence: Nay, the more deplorable and desperate the Case is, the more backward may we presume Men will be to allow the Possibility of any Cure, or the Efficacy of any Remedy for that Purpose.

It may very reasonably be presumed, that so national and atrocious a Grievance, and which it is the Interest of all Men of great Property to redress, would not have subsisted so long, had it been capable of being redressed. And this Presumption may very fairly be confirmed by the many Endeavours which our Parliament have used, and the indefatigable Pains they have taken in this Matter.

If, after all these Endeavours, the Evil should not be removed or even abated; on the contrary, if it should be even increased, surely no Man can be blamed who shall conclude it to be irremediable; and shall compare it to some inveterate Defect in our animal Constitution, to which, however grievous, an honest Physician will advise us to submit, there being no Cure for it in the Art of Physic.

This is indeed so rational, and at the same Time so decent a Conclusion, that, far from blaming it, I am almost overborne with it. I am almost deterred from prosecuting the Attempt any farther, and in some Degree conscious of the Immodesty of my Undertaking. For tho' some few, of Tempers perhaps equally sanguine with those who still hope to see the Longitude discovered, may not despair of seeing this great Evil one Day redressed, how little can a Man as I am, without Authority, hope to gain eventheir Attention on this Subject?

Let it be remembered however in my Favour, that some of the noblest and most useful Discoveries have been made by Men of little Note or Authority in the World; for which perhaps a handsomer Reason than the bare Intervention of Chance might be assigned. Men of the greatest Abilities are not always the forwardest to push themselves into the Public Notice. If eminent Fortune, or eminent Friends do not throw open to us the first Gates which lead to Fame and Greatness, a thousand mean Tricks and Arts must be submitted to, to procure us an Admission. These are easily known, and as easily practised by Persons of small Parts and much Cunning, while they are overlooked

and despised by real Genius, which is generally attended by a sullen Pride, that, disdaining to seek after the World, expects to be sought out by it. Such are the Men who, as *Horace* expresses it, deceive Mankind, and pass through the World without being known by it. A Temper of Mind which may be as happy for the Possessor, as *Horace* and *Epicurus* seem to think it, but which, very unhappily for the Public, is bestowed by Nature on the wrong Persons.

But there is a second Reason less refined, and consequently more obvious; this is the Force of a long and constant Application to any one Subject: Very moderate Parts, with this Assistance, will carry us a great Way, indeed may in Time perform Wonders; and in this I can, with great Truth, and, I hope, with equal Modesty, assert the strongest Pretensions; having read over and considered all the Laws in any wise relating to the Poor, with the utmost Care and Attention, and having been many Years very particularly concerned in the Execution of them. To these I have likewise added a careful Perusal of every thing which I could find that hath been written on this Subject, from the Original Institution in the 43d of *Elizabeth* to this Day; and upon the Whole it appears to me, that there are great Defects in these Laws, and that they are capable of being amended.

Whether I have discovered what these Defects are, and have been yet farther so fortunate as to find out the Method of removing them, I now submit to the Public, after this Preface, and this short Apology for an Undertaking which I allow to be of very great Difficulty, and to which I shall, of consequence, neither be surprized or offended, if I am thought unequal. The Attempt, indeed, is such, that the Want of Success can scarce be called a Disappointment, tho' I shall have lost much Time, and misemployed much Pains; and what is above all, shall miss the Pleasure of thinking that, in the Decline of my Health and Life, I have conferred a great and lasting Benefit on my Country.

PRO-

PROPOSALS

FOR ERECTING

A County Work-house, &c.

PAR. I. **T**HAT there shall be erected, for the County-house, and County House of Correction to be erected.
County of *Middlesex*, at some convenient Place within the said County, a large Building, consisting of three several Courts. The two outermost of the said Courts to be called the County-house, and the innermost Court to be called the County-House of Correction; with a Chapel and Offices.

II. That the said County-house shall be large enough to contain Five Thousand Persons, and upwards; and the said County House of Correction large enough to contain Six Hundred Persons, and upwards. What Poor they shall contain.

III. That both the said Houses shall be so contrived, that the Men and Women may be kept entirely separate from each other. Men and Women to be kept separate.

IV. That the said County-house shall consist, 1. Of Lodgings for the Officers. 2. Of Lodging-rooms for the Labourers. 3. Of Working-rooms for the same. Of what Buildings the County-house is to consist. Of what the County House room. 4. Of an Infirmary. 5. Of a Fasting-room. 6. Of several Cells or Dungeons. 7. Of a large Room with Iron Grates, which shall be contiguous to and look into the End of the Chapel.

V. That the said County-House of Correction shall consist, 1. Of Lodgings for the Officers. 2. Of Lodging-rooms for the Prisoners. 3. Of Working-rooms for the same. 4. Of an Infirmary. 5. Of a Fasting-room. 6. Of several Cells or Dungeons. 7. Of a large Room with Iron Grates, which shall be contiguous to and look into the End of the Chapel.

VI. There shall be likewise built one House for the Governor, one for the Deputy-Governors, one for the Chaplains, one for the Treasurer, and one other for Additions. Additional Buildings.

Note, the Arguments in Support of these Proposals are printed at the End of them, to which the Reader is desired to refer as he proceeds.

Suttlings-houses. for the Receiver General of the said House. There shall be likewise built on each Side of the said County-house, Nine Houses for the providing [the Labourers and Prisoners with the Necessaries of Life.

How to be leased. VII. That the said Eighteen Houses shall be leased to proper Persons, by the Governor for the Time being, for the Term of Seven Years, subject to a Condition of Forfeiture and Re-entry on the Breach of certain Rules and Statutes of the said House, herein after particularly mentioned.

County-house how furnished. VIII. That the Lodging-rooms of the County-house shall be furnished with Beds, allowing one Bed to two Persons; one large Joint-stool, and two small ones, for each Bed. And that the Working-rooms of the said House shall be provided with all Kinds of Implements and Tools, for carrying on such Manufactures as shall from Time to Time be introduced into the said House.

How County House of Correction. IX. That the Lodging-rooms of the County-House of Correction shall be furnished with a Coverlet and Blankets, for the Prisoners, and Matting to lie on; and the Work-rooms shall be provided with Implements for beating Hemp, chopping Rags, and for other of the hardest and vilest Labour.

X. That *A, B, &c.* shall be Commissioners for carrying this Act into Execution. That the said Commissioners, or three of them, shall meet once a Week, at such Places within the said County as they shall think most proper, from *Lady-day 1753*, to *Michaelmas 1753*; and once a Fortnight from *Michaelmas 1753*, to *Lady-day 1755*; then to make up their Accounts before a Committee of the House of Commons, if then sitting; if not, at the next Sessions, after which the said Commission to cease and be determined.

Sum to be raised. XI. That in order to defray the Expence of the aforesaid Building, and provide the same with all necessary Furniture, as well as to provide Implements and Materials for setting the Poor to work, and for other Expences during the first Year, a Sum not exceeding shall be immediately raised.

XII. That the following Officers shall be appointed for the Government and Care of the said Houses; and these Officers shall be allowed the following Salaries:

COUNTY.

COUNTY-HOUSE.

One Governor	Two Chaplains
Two Clerks	Six Keepers
Two Deputies	Six Assistants
One Clerk each	One Superintendant to
Treasurer	every Room
Receiver	Four Watchmen
Three Clerks	Clerk
Store-keeper	Sexton
Three Clerks	

HOUSE of CORRECTION.

One Keeper	Superintendant to every
Three Under-keepers	Room
Six Assistants	Two Watchmen

INFIRMARY.

Surgeon	Matron
Apothecary	Nurses

XIII. That the Governor shall sue and be sued by the Name of the Governor of the County-house of *Middlesex*. And that besides all other Powers to be given him, he shall have Power, as Governor of the said House, to make Contracts with all Persons whatever, and to draw on the Treasurer for any Sums of Money so contracted for, in Payment for any Implements or Materials of any Kind of Manufacture, Trade, or Mystery. He shall likewise have full Power to exercise and carry on, in either of the said Houses, any such Manufacture, Trade, or Mystery, as may be lawfully exercised and carried on within this Kingdom; and may once every Month hold a grand Market at the County-house, or in some convenient Place near adjoining thereto, for the Disposal of such Wares and Manufactures as shall be wrought by the Labourers in the said Houses. And that every particular Article of such Sale, with the Price for which it was sold, shall be entered in two Books; one of which shall be kept in the Receiver's, the other in the Store-keeper's Office, as hereafter is more particularly expressed.

XIV. That when any Person shall be brought before a Justice of Peace for the County of *Middlesex*, and shall be convicted before him, on the Oath of one credible Witness, of any Offence by which he is made
 Who shall be committed to the County-house,
 &c.

1. Persons made a disorderly Person, or a Rogue and Vagabond, within the by a certain Act passed in the 17th of his present Majesty, called the Vagrant Act; or shall be so convicted of any other Crime, for which he is liable to be

2. Or those committed to the House of Correction for any fixed Time, or at the Discretion of one or more Justices, by any Law now in being, it shall be lawful for the said Justice to commit such Person to the County-house, or the County House of Correction, at his Discretion; which Commitment shall be in the following Form:

Receive into your Custody the Body of J. S. herewith sent you, convicted before me, on the Oath of J. N. a credible Witness, of an Offence within the Statute of commonly called and him safely keep in your said Custody until the next general or Quarter-Sessions.---(or for any shorter Time, to be specified in the Commitment.) Given, &c.

And this Mittimus, if to the County-house, shall be directed to the Governor of the County-house, his Deputy, &c. if to the County House of Correction, to the Keeper of, &c. And whereas it will happen, that such Prisoners will be frequently conveyed to the said Houses from distant Parts of the County, the Justice shall endorse on the Back of his Commitment the Sum to be paid by the Receiver of the County-house, as an Allowance for the Charges of conveying the said Prisoner or Prisoners, such Allowance not to exceed 6d. by the Mile; and if need be, 6 d. more for the necessary Refreshment of such Prisoner.

3. Or Persons appointed to be committed to the County Goal in Execution.

XV. That it shall be likewise lawful for the Justices to commit to either of the said Houses, all Persons convicted before them of any Crimes, of which, by the Laws now in being, any one or more Justices of Peace have Cognizance in a summary Way, out of their Sessions, and when the Offenders, being so convicted, are appointed to be committed to the County Goal by way of Punishment for their said Offences.

4. Or Persons accused of small Thefts.

XVI. That where any Person shall be accused on Oath of Petit-larceny before any Justice of Peace, and it shall appear to him that it was the Party's first Offence, and that the Theft was not exaggerated by any heinous Circumstances, the Justice may at his Discretion commit the Offender to either of the aforesaid Houses till the next Sessions, or for a less Time; or

if he sees proper, may proceed to commit the Person to the County Goal, and bind over all the necessary Parties to prosecute, as he may lawfully do at this Time.

XVII. That it shall be lawful for any of his Majesty's Subjects to seize all suspicious Persons who shall be found wandering on foot about the Fields, Lanes, or Highways, or in the Streets of any of the Towns, or Parishes of the said County, or within the Liberty of *Westminster*; and all Labourers or Servants, or Persons of low Degree, who, after the Hour of Ten in the Evening, shall be found harbouring in any Ale-house or Victualling-house; and if such Persons shall not give reasonable Satisfaction to him or them, by whom he or she is apprehended, that he or she belongs to the said County, and is going on some lawful Errand or Business, or if he or she belongs to any other County, or is then six Miles distant from his own Habitation, and shall not produce a Pass or Certificate signed by some Magistrate, Minister, or Churchwarden, expressing whither, or on what Account, he or she is then travelling, it shall be lawful for the Party apprehending, to confine such Person till he or she can be delivered to the Constable, or other Peace-Officer, or shall be carried by the Party himself so apprehending such Person before some Justice of the Peace, who shall examine the said Person; and if he or she shall appear to be a Wanderer or idle Person, and shall have no legal Pass as aforesaid, such Justice may commit him or her to the County-House, or County-House of Correction, as he shall think proper, there to remain till the next General or Quarter-Sessions, or for any less Time, at his Discretion. And all Constables, Headboroughs, &c. are hereby ordered to apprehend all such Persons of whom they shall have Notice, and to receive all such Persons into their Custody as shall be delivered to them, and to convey them before some Justice, under the Penalty of Five Pounds to be levied by Warrant from the said Justices, one Half to the Use of the Person complaining, the other Half to the Use of the said County-House. Provided nevertheless, that whoever shall presume maliciously to detain any Person contrary to the plain Intent of this Law, shall forfeit to the Person so aggrieved the Sum of Ten Pounds, to be recovered by Action, &c.

5. Or
Wander-
ers with-
out a Pass.

Pafs when
and how to
be obtain-
ed by the
Party.

XVIII. And whereas it may often happen, that poor Persons have lawful Occasions to travel above fix Miles from Home, and into a foreign County, on Errands of Bufinefs for themfelves or others, or to procure Work, or fometimes to vifit their near Relations, who live at a Diftnce from them----That any Magiftrate of the County or Place, or Minifter, or Churchwarden of the Parifh being applied to, and properly informed of the Truth of fuch lawful Occafion, fhall deliver to fuch Persons a Pafs in the following Words, *Mutatis mutandis*.

Parifh } Permit *A. B.* the Bearer hereof, to pafs to
of } the Town of *Shaftesbury* in the County of
Middle- } *Dorset*, and there to remain during the
sex. } Time limited in this Pafs, he behaving
himfelf orderly and according to Law.

Given under my Hand this 10th of *Nov.* 1752.

C. D. Minifter of the faid Parifh.

This Pafs to continue in Force one Month from the Date hereof inclusive, and no longer.

--or by
any other.

XIX. That it fhall be lawful for any Gentleman, Farmer, Artificer, or Tradesman, to employ any Journeyman, Servant, or Labourer, of any other Parifh or County befides his own, he having firft obtained from fuch Magiftrate, Minifter, or Churchwarden as aforefaid, fuch Pafs as aforefaid, which the faid Magiftrate, &c. are hereby required to grant, at the Defire of fuch Gentleman, Farmer, &c. Such Pafs to be appointed to continue in Force for fo long Time as fuch Gentleman, &c. fhall require, during the Continuance of which Pafs it fhall not be lawful for any Perfon whatever, to moleft or remove the faid Journeyman or Labourer from his faid Service, unlefs for fome Crime cognizable before a Magiftrate, any Law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Who may
go voluntar-
ily to
the Coun-
ty-Houfe,
and how.

XX. And whereas many able and induftrious Persons, who are willing to get a Livelihood by honeft Labour, are often, for want of fuch Labour, reduced to great Diftreff, and forced againft their Will to become chargeable to the Parifhes to which they belong: That when any poor Perfon fhall apply to the Minifter, or Churchwarden of any Parifh, and fhew to either of them fuch their Inability to procure a Livelihood in their own Parifh, or in any other Parifh in that Neighbourhood, the faid Minifter or Church-

warden

warden shall deliver to such poor Person a Certificate in the Words following:

To the Governor of the County-House of the said County.

Parish of } I recommend to your Care *C. D.* the
Middlesex. } Bearer hereof, to be provided for in your
 County-House, he being an honest industri-
 ous Person, but incapable, at present, of
 procuring Work in this Neighbourhood.

Given under my Hand this 10th. Nov. 1752.

A. B. Churchwarden of the said Parish.

Which said Pass being produced and sworn to, before any Justice of Peace of the said County, shall be countersigned by him. Provided that it shall appear to the Justice, that such Pass was obtained, at the Desire of the Party obtaining it, and that from absolute Want of Labour in the said Parish.

XXI. That whoever shall presume to counterfeit any such Pass or Certificate as aforesaid, or to personate him or her, to whom such Pass or Certificate was originally granted, is hereby declared to be guilty of a very high Misdemeanor, of which being convicted upon the Oath of one Witness, or by his own Confession, before one Justice of the County where he shall be apprehended, he shall be committed by the said Justice to the County-house of Correction, if within the County of *Middlesex*, or to the House of Correction in any other County, there to be severely whipt and put to hard Labour for any Time not exceeding twelve, or less than six Calendar Months.

XXII. That if any Person shall be absent from his Parish with a Pass, either obtained by himself, or at the Request of any other, and shall not return to his said Parish at the Expiration thereof, (Sickness or other Inability excepted) such Person being lawfully convicted thereof by Confession or Oath of one Witness, shall be sent to the County-house of Correction, if found in *Middlesex*, or being apprehended in any other County, to the House of Correction there, by any Justice of the said County, there to be whipt and to remain to hard Labour till the next Sessions; and then to be continued or discharged, at the Discretion of the Justices.

XXIII. That when any Person shall come to the County-house with a Certificate as above, the Governor or his Deputy shall examine the said Person as to

Penalty on
counter-
feit Passes.

— or on
not return-
ing at the
Expirati-
on of the
Passes.

Manner of
Admission
of Volun-
teers into
the Coun-
ty-house.

his Age, Ability, and Skill in any Work or Manufacture, and shall then order the Receiver to enter in a Book, to be kept for that Purpose, the Name and Age of the said Person, the Parish to which he belongs, and the Day of his Admission into the County-house, together with the Kind of Labour to which he is appointed; and a Duplicate thereof shall likewise be entered in another Book, to be kept by the Store-keeper, after which the said Person shall be set to work, according to his Abilities, &c. In the said Book shall likewise be entered, an Account of the Monies advanced to him by the Receiver, and of the Repayments to be made by him as hereafter is ordered and appointed.

How Volunteers to be detained.

XXIV. And if any such Person shall depart from the said House more than the Space of one Mile, or shall absent himself above one Hour from the said House, without the Leave of the Governor or Deputy Governor, such Person being thereof convicted upon the Oath of one Witness, or on his own Confession, before the Governor, his Deputy, or any one Justice of the Peace, shall be committed to the County-house of Correction, there to remain till the next Sessions, or for any less Time: Provided nevertheless that the Governor, or his Deputy, are hereby required to grant a Licence of Departure to all such Persons, whenever the same shall be demanded; unless such Person shall not then have finished the particular Piece of Work in which he shall be employed, or unless he shall then remain indebted to the Receiver of the said House; such Licence of Departure to be in the following Words:

County- } *A. B.* The Bearer hereof, who came voluntarily to the County-house aforesaid, is
House } of } at his own Request discharged from the same,
Middle- } and at Liberty to return to his lawful Habitation in the Parish of
sex. } *J*

in the said County.

C. D. Governor.

To which the Governor may, at his Discretion, add a Clause, signifying the Industry or good Behaviour of the said Party.

Manner of Admission of those committed to the County-House.

XXV. That every Person who shall be brought by Mittimus to the County-house, shall be examined, entered, and set to work as above; a Badge with these Words, *County-house*, in large Letters, shall likewise

likewise be sewed on the left Shoulder of the said Person, who shall be confined within the said House, till he is discharged in Manner as hereafter is expressed; and whoever shall presume to tear off, or otherwise destroy the said Badge, either from himself or any other Person, being thereof convicted by the Oath of one Witness, or on his own Confession, before the Governor or Deputy, shall be by him committed to the County-house of Correction, there to remain till discharged by due Course of Law.

XXVI. That when any Person shall be brought to the County-house of Correction, by a Mittimus to the said House, he shall be immediately confined within the Fastening-room, there to remain with no other Maintenance than Bread and Water during the Space of Twenty four Hours; after which he shall be put to hard Labour with the other Prisoners, unless he shall give any Marks, by his Words or Behaviour, of any outrageous Degree of Reprobacy; in which case the Keeper of the said County-house of Correction shall inform the Governor or his Deputy thereof, who shall convene the Party before him, and may at his Discretion remand the said Person to the aforesaid Fastening-room, or may confine him alone in a Cell, to be supported with Bread and Water only, till such Time as he shall behave in a more orderly Manner; or, in default thereof, till the next Sessions. And all Persons committed to the County-house of Correction, shall there remain and be put to hard Labour till they be discharged at the Sessions, in such Manner as in this Act is directed, unless in Cases where a shorter Confinement is appointed by the Act itself.

XXVII. That the Bell of the County-house shall be rung every Morning at four throughout the Year, and Prayers shall begin in the Chapel precisely at five; at the Conclusion of which, on every *Wednesday* and *Friday*, some short Lecture, or Exhortation of Morality shall be read to the People; and if any Person, unless on Account of Sickness, or for some other reasonable Cause to be allowed by the Governor or his Deputy, shall be absent, he shall be guilty of a Misdemeanor, to be punished as hereafter.

XXVIII. That the Hours of Work in the County-house of Correction shall be every Day from six in the Morning to seven in the Evening, allowing half an Hour for Breakfast, and an Hour for Dinner; and in the

Manner of admitting into the County-House of Correction.

Rules and Orders of the House. Hour of Prayer.

Of Work.

the County-house the said Hours of Work shall be daily from six in the Morning till nine, from ten to one, and from two till six in the Evening, except on *Thursdays*, when two Hours in the Afternoon are to be otherwise employed, as hereafter is appointed, such Holy-days likewise excepted, as hereafter are mentioned; that Prayers shall again be read in the Chapel every Evening at seven.

—of Rest.

XXIX. That the Bell of the County-House shall be rung every Evening at nine, that all Fires and Lights shall be then put out, except in the Infirmary and in the Apartments of the Officers; that all the Gates and Doors of both Houses, except as aforesaid, shall then be shut and fastened, the Keys delivered to the Governor or Deputy, and the Watch shall be set.

XXX. That the Keepers or Under Keepers of both Houses, shall by Turns constantly attend and supervise the Labourers, and shall take an Account of any Neglect of Work, or other Misbehaviour; the Keepers of the County-house shall likewise take Account of any extraordinary Diligence in any of the said Labourers, and shall faithfully report the same twice in every Week, to the Governor or his Deputy, at their Court, which is hereafter appointed to be holden, and that one of the Labourers of the best Morals and Demeanor, shall in every Room be appointed to supervise the Conduct of the other Labourers, and to report the same.

—of Recreation.

XXXI. That as often as may be, the Labourers in the County-house shall be permitted to refresh themselves in the inclosed Ground, contiguous to the said House, in Presence of two at least of the Keepers and Under Keepers, particularly on *Sundays*, and on every *Thursday* in the Year, when two Hours Labour in the Afternoon shall be remitted for that purpose; the same Liberty shall be granted to any one or more of the Prisoners in the House of Correction, provided that the Surgeon or Apothecary shall certify to the Governor or his Deputy, that such Refreshment is necessary for the Health of the said Prisoners, who shall on all such Occasions be sufficiently guarded, and none of the Labourers to be present at the same Time; provided that *Christmas-day*, and the three subsequent Days, *Twelfth-day*, *Ash-wednesday*, *Good Friday*, *Monday in Easter Week*, *Monday in Whitsun Week*, *Michaelmas-*

Michaelmas-day, Gunpowder Treason-day, and his Majesty's Birth-day, shall be Holydays in the County-house, and the Labourers may recreate themselves on those Days; which shall likewise be Days of Rest in the County-house of Correction.

XXXII. That no Person shall be removed from either of the said Houses, to the Infirmary, unless by an Order signed by the Governor or his Deputy, to be obtained by the Certificate of the Surgeon or Apothecary, that such Person is in a sick and languishing Condition; and that Notice of such Removal, shall be immediately given to the Receiver and Store-keeper, who shall minute the Day of such Removal, as they shall likewise the Recovery or Death of the Party (of which they shall also have Notice) in the same Page where the Person's Name shall have afore been entered.

XXXIII. And as often as any of the Labourers or Prisoners, in either of the said Houses shall happen to die, the Governor shall take Order for their Burial in the cheapest Manner consistent with Decency, in the Burying-ground belonging to the said House; unless any of the Relations of the Deceased shall be desirous of removing the Body to be buried elsewhere at their own Expence:---After which an Account shall be taken of any Cloaths, Money, or other things, of which the Deceased shall die possessed, as well as an Account taken of what was due from the Receiver to him, or from him to the Receiver; and if on the Balance any thing shall appear to have been due to the Deceased, such Balance, together with his Cloaths, &c. shall carefully and faithfully be delivered to his lawful Representative: All which shall be entered in the Book of the Receiver and Store-keeper, in the same Page where the said Party's Name was above ordered to be entered.

XXXIV. That as often as any Person shall be committed or admitted to the County-house, the Receiver shall immediately advance to him or her, if desired, the Sum of two Shillings, and so weekly the same Sum, until the first Sale of the Manufacture wrought by such Person; after which it shall not be lawful for the said Receiver to make any farther Advancement, without a special Order from the Governor or Deputy, specifying the Sum to be advanced, opposite to which shall be entered the Letter O; and such

such Order shall likewise be filed, as a Voucher for that Purpose. All these Advancements to be afterwards deducted by the Receiver, after the Rate of Fourpence in the Shilling, out of the Monies due to the said Labourer from the Sale of his Manufacture, till the whole shall be repaid.

—To the Prisoners in the County House of Correction.

Deductions from the Labourers.

Accounts to be kept.

XXXV. That to all Persons committed to the County House of Correction, at their Commitment thither, shall be advanced by the said Receiver the Sum of one Shilling, and so weekly the said Sum during their Continuance there.

XXXVI. That from all those who are committed to the County-house, the Sum of Twopence in every Shilling shall be deducted out of the nett Profits arising from their Labour; but from those who voluntarily come thither, no more than one Penny in every Shilling.

XXXVII. That immediately after every Sale the Receiver shall make up the Accounts thereof with the Governor or Deputy, which Accounts shall be examined with and chequed by those kept by the Store-keeper; after which the Receiver shall presently distribute to the several Labourers in the County-house, all such Sums as shall by him be received for their several Manufactures, having first made such Deductions as are herein before appointed; all which Deductions shall be forthwith paid into the Hands of the Treasurer of the said House.

XXXVIII. That the Receiver and Store-keeper shall keep an exact Account of all Implements, Materials, &c. from Time to Time brought to the said House, of those which are delivered to the Labourers, and those which remain in the Hands of the said Store-keeper. The same exact Account to be likewise kept of all the Manufactures which shall be wrought in the said House, and by whom; with the Prices for which the said Manufactures were sold, the Monies paid to the Labourers, and the Deductions: All which shall be entered in two Books by the Receiver and Store-keeper, allowing a separate Page to every Man.

Governor to inspect Accounts and Sessions.

XXXIX. That all such Accounts shall be examined by the Governor, and shall be afterwards laid before every Quarter-Sessions; at which Time the Receiver and Store-keeper shall swear to the Truth thereof: To which said Sessions the Treasurer shall likewise transmit an Account of the Monies then in his

his Hands, and if there shall at any Time appear to be less than the Sum of one Thousand Pounds remaining with the Treasurer, the Deficiency shall be made up by a County-rate, together with so much more as by the best Computation shall be thought necessary for mean Expenditures, so that there may still remain the said Sum of one Thousand Pounds Capital Stock in the Hands of the said Treasurer, at the ensuing Quarter Sessions: And if any considerable Excess of the said Capital Stock, over and above what shall be necessary for paying the Salaries of the Officers, and other Expences concerning the said Houses, shall be in the Treasurer's Hands, such Redundancy shall then be applied in Aid of the parochial Rates, in the several Parishes of the said County.

How De-
ficiencies
made up.

How Re-
dundan-
cies em-
ployed.

XL. That for the better Instruction of the Labourers in the Manufactures and Mysteries now exercised in this Kingdom, as well as for the Introduction of foreign Manufactures and Mysteries into the said Kingdom, it shall be lawful for the Governor to expend annually, during the first three Years, the Sum of _____ and every subsequent Year annually the Sum of _____ for the Pay and Encouragement of Persons to teach our own and foreign Manufactures to the said Labourers. All such Disbursements to be entered in a Book to be kept for that Purpose, attested by the Party receiving the same, and by the Governor and one Deputy at least, as well as by the Receiver; and such Book to be constantly inspected and examined into by the Justices as they shall think fit.

Teachers
of Manu-
facture to
be hired.

XLI. Upon Application made by any Nobleman, Gentleman, Merchant, Tradesman, Farmer, or substantial Householder, dwelling within the County of *Middlesex*, or within twenty Miles of the said County-house, to the Governor or Deputy, signifying that such Nobleman, &c. is desirous to take into his Service any Labourer or Labourers then confined in the said County-house, it shall be lawful for the Governor or Deputy. and he is hereby required to deliver over the said Labourer or Labourers to such Person so applying, and to deliver to each of the said Labourers a Certificate, in the Words following;

Labourers
may be let
out to Ser-
vice.

County-house *Middlesex*,

A. B. is delivered to *C. D.* as
his Servant, to serve him until
and then to return to the said House. Dated the
5th of *August*, 1753.

E. E. Deputy-Governor.

Provided nevertheless, that where such Servant shall be hired for a Year certain, the Clause relating to his Return shall be omitted; and when any Labourer shall be so hired as afore said for any less Time than one Year, the Person so hiring such Labourer shall deposit in the Hands of the Receiver of the said House one Half of the Labourer's Wages for the Time he shall be so hired: And if he shall be hired for any longer Time than two Months, then one Month's Wages to be deposited; which Money so deposited shall be paid by the Receiver to every such Labourer immediately upon his Return to the said House, deducting one Penny in every Shilling. And if such Labourer shall depart, or be lawfully discharged from his said Service, before the Wages so deposited shall become due, the Receiver shall return the whole to the Person depositing the same, deducting only as above; but if the said Labourer shall abide with his said Master during the limited Time, and shall not return within two Days after the Expiration thereof, (Sickness, or other lawful Impediment, excepted) then shall the Money deposited be forfeited to the Use of the said House; of all which Retainers, Deposits, Repayments, and Forfeitures, a double Entry shall be made by the Receiver and Store-keeper.

And if any Person so hiring any Labourer as afore said, shall discharge the same before the Expiration of the Term for which he was so hired, he shall forfeit the whole Money deposited by him as above; which Money shall be paid to such Labourer, at his Return to the said House.

Provided that it shall be lawful on reasonable Cause shewn to the Satisfaction of any one Justice of the Peace, either by the Master or Labourer, for such Justice to discharge such Labourer, and to send him back to the County-house, or order him to the County-house of Correction, at his Pleasure; and if such Labourer shall have been hired into any foreign County, the Justice of such County may, if he pleases, commit him to the House of Correction there: Provided likewise,

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likewise, that if such Labourer shall by Sicknes or any Accident be rendered incapable of working, it shall be lawful for his Master, at his Expence, to return him to the County-house, to be provided for in the Infirmary of the said House; in which Case, the Money deposited shall be paid to him to whom it shall appear to be due.

And if any Labourer so hired as aforesaid for less Time than one Year, shall not, at the End of his Term, return to the said House; or if any Labourer whatsoever, so being hired, shall run away or depart from his Master's Service before the Expiration of his Term, unless for some Default in his Master or Mistress, or shall assault his Master or Mistress, or shall refuse to work at the Command of his said Master, or his Agent, or be guilty of any Misdemeanor in his said Service, it shall be lawful for any Justice of the Peace, if such Masters shall reside in the County of *Middlesex*, to commit the said Labourer to the County House of Correction, there to be first severely whipt, and to remain to hard Labour till the next Sessions, when he may be farther dealt with by the Justices at their Discretion: Or if the said Master shall reside in any other County, then to be sent by a Justice of that County to the House of Correction there, to be severely whipt, and to remain for any Time not exceeding three, nor less than one Calendar Month. Provided that no Person who comes voluntarily to the said House shall be forced into such Service contrary to his own Consent and Option.

XLII. That if any Person, to the Number of three or more, shall conspire together to break the said County-house, or County House of Correction, and shall have provided themselves with any Kind of Arms or Weapons for that Purpose, and shall all or any of them do any Act whatsoever in pursuance of such Conspiracy, and with a manifest Design of executing the same, in consequence of which Act any Officer belonging to either of the said Houses shall be killed, maimed, or wounded, this shall be Felony without Clergy in all the Conspirators.

XLIII. That if any Persons, to the Number of three or more, whereof all or any Part shall be confined within either of the said Houses, shall maliciously beat and bruise, or wound any Officer belonging to either of those Houses, in such manner that the Surgeon or Apothecary appointed to attend the said Houses

Crimes
cognizable
before
the higher
Courts of
Justice.
1. Con-
spiracies
to break
the Prison.

2 To beat,
wound,
&c. the
Officers.

Houses shall on Oath declare, that the Life or Limb of such Officer was brought into Danger thereby, such Persons, being lawfully convicted of such Offence, shall suffer Death as Felons without Clergy.

3. Assaults
on the Go-
vernor,
&c.

XLIV. That every Person confined within either of the aforesaid Houses, who shall assault the Governor, Deputy Governor, or Chaplains, tho' not then in the Execution of their Office; or who shall assault, beat, and bruise, or wound any of the Officers belonging to either House, any wife, on Account of, or in the Execution of, their several Offices; or who shall actually break either of the said Houses, and escape therefrom; being lawfully convicted of any of the said Offences shall be transported for fourteen Years.

4. Convey-
ing Arms,
&c. into
the Houses

XLV. That all Persons who shall convey any Fire-arms, or any mischievous Weapon or Tool, to any of the Labourers or Prisoners within either of the said Houses, without the Privy of the Governor or Deputy-Governor, shall be guilty of Felony; and being lawfully convicted thereof, shall be transported for seven Years.

5. Refusal
to work.

XLVI. That all Persons committed to the County House of Correction, who shall absolutely refuse or neglect to labour, after a Fortnight's Confinement in the said House; and having during that Time received the Discipline of the same, being lawfully convicted of such absolute Refusal or Neglect, before Justices of Oyer and Terminer, or Goal-delivery, shall be transported for seven Years; provided that it may be lawful for any Officer of the Army to receive the Body of such Offender, and to convey him to serve his Majesty in any of his Forces in the *East* or *West Indies*.

6. Frauds
in the Offi-
cers.

XLVII. That any Receiver, Storekeeper, Clerk, or other Person, who shall knowingly, and with a fraudulent Design, make any false Entry in any of the Books by this Act ordered to be kept, and in which Entries are here ordered to be made, such Offender, being lawfully convicted thereof, shall be deemed guilty of Felony, and transported for seven Years.

Accused
Persons to
be com-
mitted to
the Coun-
ty Goal.

XLVIII. That all Persons lawfully accused, by the Oath of one credible Witness, of any of the aforesaid Crimes before the Governor or his Deputy, shall by him be committed to the County Goal, there to remain till discharged by due Course of Law. In the same Manner shall be committed all Persons accused of Felony in either of the said Houses, or of giving any

any Maim, dangerous Wound, Bruise, or Hurt, to any Person within the said Houses.

XLIX. That if any of the Officers, or any Person having Liberty to sell their Wares within the said Houses, shall sell or give to any of the Labourers in either of the said Houses, any Quantity, how small soever, of spirituous Liquors, without the Order or Direction of the Surgeon or Apothecary, such Persons, being lawfully convicted thereof before the Justices at their Sessions, shall be deemed guilty of a Misdemeanor, punishable by the Justices with Fine and Imprisonment: And all such Persons, being so convicted, shall be incapable of bearing any Office, or selling any of their Wares within either of the said Houses for the future: And all those who shall be charged on Oath before the Governor with the said Crime, shall be bound with sufficient Sureties to appear and answer the same at the next Sessions.

L. That all Persons wilfully and maliciously destroying, spoiling, or injuring any of the Furniture belonging to either of the said Houses, or any of the Implements, Tools, Materials, Manufacture, or Stock being therein, shall, when lawfully convicted thereof before the Justices at their Sessions, be deemed guilty of an infamous Crime, and may, besides Fine and Imprisonment, receive any corporal Punishment, not extending to Life or Limb, at the Discretion of the said Justices.

LI. That every Person escaping from the County-House of Correction, shall, on his being apprehended, be brought before the Governor or Deputy, and being thereof convicted before him, shall be by him recommitted to the said House; there to be severely whipt, and then confined during the Space of ten Days in one of the Cells belonging to the said House, and to have only Bread and Water for his Support: After which he shall remain in the House of Correction subject to the Rules of the House as before, with this likewise, that he shall on no Account be liable to be discharged from the same, until the next Sessions which shall be held after the Expiration of six Calendar Months.

LII. That every Person escaping from the County-house shall be committed to the County House of Correction, and shall be whipt at his Entrance into the same.

Lesser Crimes.

1. Introducing spirituous Liquors into the Houses.

2. Destroying Work, &c.

3. Escape from the County-house of Correction.

---From the County House.

LIII. That

Jurisdic-
tion of the
Governor.

Petty Of-
fences.

LIII. That twice in every Week, that is to say, on every Monday and every Thursday in the Forenoon, the Governor or his Deputy shall hold a Court within the said County-house; in which the said Governor or his Deputy shall have Power to hear and determine any of the following Offences.

1. Quarrels among the Labourers, where no Maim, Wound, violent Bruise, or other dangerous Hurt is given or done; but where the Injury consists in some slight Blow or Kick, or of contumelious and provoking Language.

2. Profane Swearing or Cursing, or other profane Discourse, and all Kind of Indecency in Word or Act.

3. Drunkenness.

4. Absence from Chapel without Cause, or irreverend Behaviour there.

5. Absence from Work, Idleness at it, or negligently spoiling the same.

6. Obstinate Disobedience to any of the Rules of the House.

All which are hereby declared to be Offences against the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, and to be punishable by the said Governor or Deputy, by Rebuke, small Fine, or Confinement for any short Time, not exceeding three Days; allowing only such Sustenance as shall be thought proper for the first Offence; for a second Offence the Confinement may be enlarged to a Week; and for a third, the Offender may be committed to the House of Correction, there to remain till the next Sessions, or for any less Time; and may likewise be ordered to be whipt. And in case of a third Offence committed by any of the Prisoners in the House of Correction, the Governor or Deputy may, besides the Punishment of whipping, confine such Person in one of the Cells, there to remain till the next Sessions; or if such Offence be an absolute Refusal or Neglect of Work, may commit him to the County Goal, there to remain till he be discharged by due Course of Law: Provided that the second and third Offence above mentioned is here intended to be an Offence of the same Kind with the first. All Convictions to be on the View of the Governor or Deputy, Confession of the Party, or on the Oath of one credible Witness.

2dly,

2dly, The Governor or Deputy shall at such his Court enquire of all Persons who have behaved themselves so as to merit Reward, and shall minute their Names in a Book to be kept for that Purpose, which shall be produced to the Justices at the next Sessions. Of what the Governor, &c. to enquire.

3dly, They shall enquire of the Conduct of all the Officers under them, and if they find any of them deficient in their Duty, or guilty of any Cruelty, Corruption, or other atrocious Fault, such Officer shall be suspended from his Office till the next Sessions, when the same shall be presented before the Justices.

4thly, they shall enquire of all Offences within this Act, and of all other Offences of which the Persons lawfully accused are to be committed to the County Goal; and such as are so accused they shall commit thither.

5thly, They shall from Time to Time enquire into the Prices of Provisions brought into the said House, and regulate the same, subject to the Supervisal of the Sessions. And if any Exactions shall have been made on the Labourers or Prisoners, or any unwholesome Provisions introduced into the said Houses, or other Default be in the Victuallers, they shall report the same to the Sessions.

LIV. That on one of the Days on every Sessions to be holden at *Hick's-Hall*, the said Sessions shall be adjourned to the County-house, there to be holden within five Days next after such Adjournment; at which Sessions at the County-house the Justices shall have Power to enquire, Jurisdiction of the Sessions.

1st, Of all Neglects, Corruptions, or other Misdemeanors, in any of the Officers of the said Houses, and to punish the same, (unless in the Governor or Deputies, or Chaplains of the said House,) by Reproof, Fine, or Dismission, as they shall think meet; and if by Dismission, then to place some other fit Person in the Room of the Officers so dismissed.

2dly, They shall enquire into the general Conduct of the said House, and if they shall find any Default in the Governor, Deputy-Governors, or Chaplains of the same, they shall report such Default before their Brethren at the next ensuing Sessions at *Hick's-Hall*, where the Governor, &c. shall have Notice to appear, and make his Defence; and if such Default shall seem to the Majority of the Justices of the said Sessions to be well proved, and to be of such a Na-

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ture as to merit any severe Censure, they may, if they please, report the same to the Lord High Chancellor of *Great Britain*, who shall have full Cognizance of the Matter, and may remove the Governor, &c. from his Office, or fine him at his Pleasure.

3dly, The Justices shall enquire of the Prices of Provisions, &c. which shall be brought into the said Houses, and shall regulate the same at their Discretion, altering, if they see fit, the Orders taken by the Governor herein; and may hear the Report of the Governor touching any Default in the Victuallers, and may punish the same by Fine or by turning out such Victualler at their Pleasure.

4thly, They shall enquire of the Behaviour of all Persons confined within the House of Correction, and such as they shall find, by the Report of the Keeper on his Oath, or by other Evidence, to have behaved themselves orderly, and to have applied closely to their Labour, the Justices may enlarge from that Confinement, and commit them to the County-house, to be there kept till the ensuing Sessions; and such as they shall find to have behaved in a less orderly Manner, or to be lazy or negligent in their Work, they may order to remain till the next Sessions in the House of Correction, where they then are; but such as they shall find to be utterly reprobate and ungovernable, and to refuse all Kinds of Labour, the Justices are hereby required to commit to the County Goal, there to remain till discharged by due Course of Law.

5thly, The Justices shall likewise enquire by the Recommendation of the Governor, Deputy-Governor, or Rector, or by the Oath of other Evidence, of the Behaviour of the several Labourers then confined within the County-house; and such as shall appear to have behaved themselves decently and orderly, and to have been diligent in their Work, the Justices may, at the Desire of the Party, enlarge from their Confinement: Provided, that such Party shall make out to their Satisfaction, that there is any reasonable Cause to hope or expect that such Labourer will be able to maintain himself in an honest Manner at his own Home; in which Case the Justices shall give the Party a Pass, to enable him to travel thither without Molestation: Provided that no Person shall be discharged from the County-house while he shall remain indebted to the Receiver of the said House.

And

And such Persons as shall have behaved themselves in a less becoming Manner, or who shall have been idle and negligent in their Work, or who shall not be able to make it appear to the Satisfaction of the Justices, that they would be capable of procuring an honest Livelihood at their own Homes, or shall remain indebted to the said Receiver, the said Justices shall order to continue in the said County-house till the next Sessions. And if it shall appear to the said Justices, by any of the means aforesaid, that any of the said Persons have behaved themselves in a notorious and outrageous Manner, or have totally neglected or refused to work, then it shall be lawful for the said Justices to commit such Persons to the County House of Correction, there to remain till the next Sessions, with hard Labour, and with other such Correction and Punishment as they shall think proper.

6thly, The Justices shall inspect all the Accounts relating to the said House, and shall have Power to examine on Oath the Treasurer, Receiver, Storekeeper, with their several Clerks, or any other Person touching the same; and if the said Accounts shall appear to them to be fair and just, they shall then sign the same: Which Account having been first examined and signed by the Governor or Deputy, and so passed and countersigned by the said Justices, shall be good and effectual to all Manner of Purposes: But if there shall appear to the Justices upon their said Examination to have been any gross Mistakes, or any Kind of false Entry, Fraud, or Collusion, shall appear upon the Face of the said Accounts, the said Justices may, if they please, examine into and finally determine the same; as likewise may suspend or dismiss any Officer who shall to them appear to have been guilty of any such false Entry, Fraud or Collusion; or may, if they shall see more convenient, adjourn over the further Hearing and Determination of the same to the next Sessions: To which they may bind over all Parties, and in the mean Time may, if they shall think fit, suspend the suspected Person from the Exercise of his Office, and may appoint another to officiate in his Room.

Lastly, They shall have Power to enquire into the Behaviour of any of the Labourers, who shall have so behaved themselves as to merit Rewards, and may proceed to order them severally such Reward as to

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them shall seem proper: All which shall be publickly paid to the said Labourers in open Court by the Governor, who shall draw on the Treasurer for the same; such Reward to be paid in the Presence of all who are to receive any Punishment at that Time.

Governor,
&c. to in-
spect Pu-
nishments.

LV. Whereas the Punishment of Whipping is inflicted in some Cases in this Law, which Whipping is always intended to be severe and exemplary, the Governor, or his Deputy, is always to be present at the inflicting the same.

How the
Officers to
be chose.

LVI. That the Governor, Deputy-Governors, Chaplains, Treasurer, Receiver, Keeper of the House of Correction, and all other the Officers and Ministers attending the same, shall be chose at the Sessions at *Hick's-Hall*, by the Majority of the Justices there present, by Ballot; and before any of the said Justices shall be admitted to ballot he shall take the following Oath:

You do swear that you will give your Suffrage in the Ballot now to be made, impartially, not out of Favour or Affection, nor on Account of any Promise made by you or to you, nor by the Force of any Recommendation whatsoever; but as you are persuaded to the best of your Knowledge or Belief, that the Person for whom you shall give your Suffrage is better qualified than any other of his Competitors (*if there be any, otherwise say only, is qualified*) for the Discharge of the Trust for which he now appears a Candidate. So help you God. In like Manner shall all Vacancies be supplied from Time to Time.

Fines, &c.
how dis-
posed.

LVII. That all Fines and Forfeitures to be imposed or to accrue by Virtue of this Act, not otherwise disposed of, shall be paid to the Treasurer of the County-house, and be applied to the Use of the said House.

By-Laws.

LVIII. The Governor may make By-laws with the Consent of the Justices, the same to be approved by the Lord Chancellor.

LIX. Persons tried, &c. shall plead this Act, &c.

ARGUMENTS

IN

Explanation and Support

OF THE

Foregoing PROPOSALS.

Paragraph I, &c. to XIV. *The Appointment of a County-house and County-house of Correction, with the Regulation thereof.*

PAR. I. *IN* Middlesex, &c.] It is proposed to make the Trial first in the County of *Middlesex*, as I am best acquainted with the State of the Poor in that County, and as the well regulating them there is of the greatest Moment to the Public; but if the Plan should be approved by Experience, it will be very easy to extend it over the Kingdom.

Ibid. In some convenient Place.] This should be at some little Distance from *London*; nor will it be difficult among the many Wastes which lie within a few Miles, to fix on some convenient Place for the Purpose. I do not know myself any so proper as a Common near *Acton-Wells*, the Purchase of which, tho' of three Hundred Acres Extent, would be very reasonable; it being at present allotted to the Use of the Poor of *Fulham*, who derive very little Benefit from it. I may add, that this is a very healthy Spot, and most commodiously situated; being at no great Distance from any Part of *Middlesex*, and not five Miles from *Hyde-Park* Corner.

II. *The County-house to be large enough, &c.*] As whatever is perfectly new is apt to affect us with Surprise, and as this Surprise is increased and attended with Doubt and Incredulity in Proportion to the Greatness of the Object, I am well aware of the Impression with which the Largeness of the Building will strike many Minds: The Idea of a Body of Men united under one Government in a large City, must have been amazing when it was first propounded to Men who lived a wandering Life scattered in single Families, or collected in very small Numbers to-

gether; tho' indeed our Astonishment is not quite so excusable, as we see not only the Possibility of such Union, but the Advantages arising from it.

In the present Case, however, I think to make it appear from Reason, Authority, and Experience, that to answer the Ends proposed, *to make the Poor useful Members of the Society*, we must bring them as much as possible together; at least so as to collect the Poor of a single County.

First, It is a great Work, and requires many great Qualifications in the Person who is principally to direct it: Such Men are not to be found in every Parish in a County; nor if they were found, could they be induced to employ their Time this Way by any Reward which the Parish could bestow on them: For not much less Time and Trouble will be requisite to the directing and supervising a small Body of Men, than a Body twenty Times as large, when once this is brought into Regularity and Order. The same Abilities and the same Trouble which can well order and govern a small State, will suffice for the Government of a large Kingdom. To manage the Poor so as to produce the Ends proposed in this Undertaking, is a Task to which very few are equal; and those who are equal to it will scarce undertake it, unless they are well paid for their Pains.

2dly, The Expence and Difficulty of carrying this Purpose into Execution will always increase in Proportion to the Smallness of the Body of People by whose Hands it is to be executed. And this is the Reason why Work-houses (more properly called Idle-houses) have by Experience been found to produce no better Effect: For if the Masters of these Houses had a real Disposition to set the Poor to Work, and if they had all adequate Capacities for that Purpose, they would by no Means be able to effect it. One or two or three Manufactures will not suffice to employ the various Talents, Skill, and Strength of a small Body of Men, especially when this Body is eternally changing. Many Inconveniences will necessarily attend such Houses: The Manufacturer will sometimes stand still for Want of Work; and at others, the Materials will be spoiled for Want of Hands; whereas in such a Number of Persons as are here proposed to be collected together, some will be found capable of every Manufacture, and of every Branch of it; and as from a Certainty of finding such Hands, all Kind of Materials and all Kind of Tools will be provided, both the Mischiefs above complained of will of Course be avoided. I have here supposed the Existence of Parish Work-houses at least, (whereas in Reality there are but few of these where any Number of Poor are lodged, and much fewer where they are in any Manner employed) for as to those Parishes where the Poor are left at large, it is utterly impossible that they should

be made in any Degree useful, or indeed any other than a heavy Burthen on their Neighbours; some of whom, (by the Way) are often little richer than themselves. In a large Body alone the Materials can be sufficiently supplied, the Hands properly adapted, new Manufactures taught, and the Work well disposed of to the Emolument of the Public, and the proper Encouragement of the Labourer.

3dly, As the Industrious cannot so well be employed, so neither can the Lazy be so efficaciously compelled to work in Parish Work-houses; the Care of which must be intrusted to Persons of mean Consideration, where there can be no proper Authority to inflict Punishment, nor any adequate Force to execute it on those who are most reprobate and desperate.

4thly, The Poor cannot be so well nor so cheaply provided for in many Bodies, as they may be when collected into one.

5thly, They will not be so commodiously confined. In small and crowded Work-houses, where there are no Courts nor Outlets to admit the Air, the Poor are often so distempered, that their Keepers are obliged by common Humanity to let them frequently out; in which Case, the certain and immediate Use which these Wretches make of their Liberty, is to increase the Number of Beggars.

6thly, The Proposal for Amendment of their Morals, by instilling into them Notions of Religion or Morality, (a Matter as it appears to me of the highest Consequence) is only consistent with the Scheme of bringing them together; to which Scheme indeed all the Rules and Orders of this Plan are directed, and with which alone they will, on Examination, be found compatible. Every Thing, therefore, which I shall say on the present Occasion, may be applied as an additional Reason on this Head.

And in this Case, Authority will be found to be on the same Side with Reason. My Lord Chief Justice *Hale*, perceiving that the Poor of a single Parish could not be well provided for by themselves, advises a Coalition of several Parishes for this Purpose. This was clearly seeing the Defect in the Statute of *Elizabeth*, tho' it was not carrying the Remedy far enough.

The Author of an Essay on the Bills of Mortality (said to be the famous Sir *William Petyt*, under the borrowed Name of *Graunt*) having discoursed on the Evil of Beggars, of reforming their Morals, curing their Impotencies, and teaching them to work according to the Condition and Capacity of every Individual, concludes in these Words, ' But I say none of these can be effected without bringing them together; or if it could be effected at all, neither so well nor so cheaply*.'

* *Graunt* on Bills of Mortality, Chap. 3.

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The great Sir *Josiah Child* (for great in his Province he certainly was) proposes, ' that the cities of *London* and *Westminster*, ' Borough of *Southwark*, and all other Places within the usual ' Lines of Communication described in the weekly Bills of ' Mortality, may, by Act of Parliament, be associated into one ' Province, or Line of Communication, for the Relief of the ' Poor.'

He proceeds, among other Powers to be given to his Corporation, ' that they, and such as they shall authorise, may ' have Power to purchase Lands, erect and endow Work-houses, ' Hospitals, and Houses of Correction,' &c.

Here is almost as populous, if not as large a District, as the County of *Middlesex* itself. It is true, he doth not expressly mention the bringing these Work-houses, Hospitals, and Houses of Correction together into one Place; but this will appear, I think, to have been his Intention, or he would not have concluded in the following Manner:

' If it be here objected to the whole Purpose of this Treatise, ' that this Work may as well be done in distinct Parishes, if ' all Parishes were obliged to build Work-houses, and employ ' their Poor therein, as *Dorchester* and some others have done ' with good Success:

' I answer, that such Attempts have been made in many ' Places, to my Knowledge, with very good Intents and strenuous Endeavours; but all that ever I heard of proved vain and ' ineffectual, except that single Instance of the Town of *Dorchester*, which yet signifies nothing to the Kingdom in general; nor does the Town of *Dorchester* entertain any but their ' own Poor only, and whip away all others: Whereas that ' which I design, is to propose such a Foundation as shall be ' large, wise, honest, and rich enough to maintain and employ ' all Poor that come within the Pale of their Communication, ' without enquiring where they were born,' &c.

These are great Authorities, and will, I doubt not, much more than counterbalance any Opinions which can be produced on the other Side, if indeed there are any such.

Lastly, Experience, the Instructor of those who can learn of no other Master, might, of itself alone, convince us of the Truth for which I am contending. I will not here repeat what I have said in the Introduction, relating to the wretched State of the Poor under the present Establishment; all which may be urged as an Argument on this Head, since it will, I think, appear, that the scattered State in which the Poor were left by the Statute of *Elizabeth*, is the principal Reason why this Law hath

produced no better Effect. It is true indeed, the Management of the Poor was by that Statute intrusted to very improper Hands ; but this will not universally account for the Evil, since many worthy and good Men have, in divers Places, taken upon themselves the Charge of the Poor, and have employed much Time and Trouble therein to very little or no Purpose. The true Reason therefore that the Poor have not yet been well provided for, and well employed is, that they have not yet been drawn together. Of this Opinion were the great Writers whom I have cited, and both Reason and Experience may convince us, that the Matter can be accomplished no other Way.

But perhaps an Objection may suggest itself of the contrary Kind, and to which it may at first Sight appear more difficult to give an Answer. It will perhaps be said, that I have computed the Poor at too small a Number, and have not proposed a Method of providing for one half of them. Indeed if we are to estimate the Poor by the Overseers Books in the several Parishes as they now stand, and add to these the Inhabitants of *Bridewell*, with all those who ought to be Inhabitants of that Place, I readily grant I have not provided for Half, nor perhaps for half a Quarter of the Poor of this County. But the Objector will be pleased to observe, that a great Number of the latter Part do not properly belong to this County ; but are Vagabonds from all Parts of the Kingdom : Witness the great Expence to which this County is put, by passing one in a Hundred perhaps back to their own Homes. Some of these are at present drawn hither from those Counties where their Labour is often wanted, by the great Encouragement which this Town affords to Beggars and Thieves. Others come up with honest Views at first, in which being commonly disappointed, they betake themselves to the same Means of procuring the Bread of Idleness : but when, instead of such alluring Prospects, a Work-house or a *Bridewell* shall present itself to their Eyes, this Swarm, it may easily be supposed, will soon cease, and the two Houses will be little filled with such Vagabonds. And as to the proper Poor of the County, when we deduct the Aged, the Infant, and the accidentally Impotent, who are not the Objects of my Plan, the Building proposed will perhaps be found capable of receiving the rest. But let us allow the Objection its full Force, and what doth it assert ? Why, that there are more able Poor in the County of *Middlesex*, who are at present idle, tho' capable of being employed, than I have provided an Accommodation for. The Result of this would certainly be, that the Means of Accommodation should be enlarged ; and this I apprehend, if it should appear to be necessary, may very easily be effected.

III. *Men and Women to be kept separate.*] The Utility of this Provision needs no Comment: Our present Houses of Correction, for Want of this Regulation, are Places of the most infamous and profligate Debauchery.

IV. *&c. to the IXth inclusive.* These are only loose Sketches of what it may perhaps be unnecessary to insert in the Bill, and which may be left to the Discretion of those to whom the Legislature shall think proper to intrust the Care of the Building. The Nomination of the Commissioners I likewise submit to the Legislature.

XI. *A Sum to be raised.*] I have not ventured to particularize any Sum; but it must undoubtedly be a large one. And yet large as it will be, when we consider the great Utility proposed, of effectually providing for the Poor, and of relieving the Public from Beggars, and Thieves, it must appear moderate, or even trifling.

But farther: It is not only the Redress of an Evil, by the relieving the Poor from their Misery, and the Public from the Poor, which is the Object of this Plan; much of positive Good is designed by it to the Society. If 6000 Hands which now sit idle can be employed, the Advantages resulting hence to the Public need not be explained to any who have the least Notion of Trade, or of the Benefits arising from it.

An excellent Writer on our Constitution observes, that of the three main Supports of the Riches of a People, two of them consist in improving their natural Commodities, and in setting the Poor to work*. The former indeed is only the Consequence of the latter; nay, as he himself says, *The Improvement of the natural Commodity can never enrich the Kingdom so long as many Mouths are fed upon the main Stock, and waste the same in Idleness and Prodigality.*

The great Mr. Law, in his Treatise called Money and Trade considered, explains this more fully. His Words are these, 'An Addition to the Money adds to the Value of the Country. So long as Money gives Interest, it is employed; and Money employed brings Profit, tho the Employer loses. If 50 Men are set to Work to whom 25 s. is paid per Day, and the Improvement made by their Labour is only equal to, or worth 15 s. yet by so much the Value of the Country is increased; but as it is reasonable to suppose their Labour equal to 40 s. so so much is added to the Value of the Country, of which the Employer gains 15 s. 15 may be supposed equal to the Consumption of the Labourers, who before lived on Charity, and 10 s. remains to them over their Consumption†.'

* *Baron's Disc. on Law and Government, Part II. p. 39.*

† Money and Trade considered, p. 22.

Nor will it bear, I think, any rational Doubt, whether Employments may be found for this, or indeed a much larger, Number of Hands. Sir *William Petyt*, in that excellent Work called his *Political Arithmetic*, affirms, and proves too, that there were in his Days spare Hands among the King's Subjects to earn two Millions more than was actually earned. He farther affirms, that there was two Millions Worth of Work to be done, which the King's Subjects did neglect to do *; for without this latter could be proved, the former, as he himself admits, would serve to little Consequence.

Now the Number of Hands, here to be provided for, may surely be computed at a very low Rate (for so I would make the Computation) to do, one with another, Work to the Value of 10*l. per Annum*, this will amount to 60000*l.* the Advantage of which to the Public will be readily acknowledged. Here then the Evil of the Poor will not only be removed, but it will be converted into a very great Emolument.

But there is yet another Light in which this Sum may perhaps appear more palatable; and that is, by comparing it with the Sum now paid to the Poor-Rate, which in this County of *Middlesex* amounts annually to upwards of 70,000*l.* as I am informed; Of which five Parts in six are, I believe, applied to the Use of those Poor who are the Objects of the Law proposed in this Plan.

They are the able Poor, either such as cannot procure Work, or such as will not do it, who are the great Burthens of the Society. Of those who are absolutely impotent, the Number is truly inconsiderable. Sir *William Petyt*, whom I shall beg Leave to cite once more, in his *Political Anatomy of Ireland* †, computes, that there is in Nature but one in 500 at most who is blind, lame, or under any incurable Impotence, as old Age, &c. To every Individual of these he allows 6*l. per Annum*; which, he says, would maintain them without Scandal. A very large Allowance, when we consider the Place of which he speaks, and the Time in which he wrote. A less Sum would, I believe, answer the Purpose among us.

According to this Computation, if the People in *Middlesex* amount to 1,200,000, the impotent Poor will be 2400; the Expence of maintaining which Number will be 13,600*l.* The above excellent Author estimates the Children under seven Years of Age, at the Rate of one Fourth of the People: These then, according to my Estimate in *Middlesex*, will be 300,000. Of these, I presume, not above one in 150 will be a Burthen on

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* *Polit. Arithmetic*, Chap. VIII.

† *Polit. Anat. of Ireland*, p. 11.

the Public. This Number then will be 3000; for whom 3*l*. each, one with another, will be sufficient; and which will make the Sum of 9000*l*. The whole Expence therefore of the impotent Poor in *Middlesex* will be 22,600*l*. about the fourth Part of what it now is. And if the Number of Hospitals, Infirmaryes and various donative Charities within this County of *Middlesex*, do not reduce this Sum, so as to bring the whole Expence to one Sixth Part of what it now is, I am greatly deceived, or those must be grossly misapplied.

I have endeavoured in a former Essay * to shew, that such Objects as these, so cheaply to be provided for, might with great Safety be left to voluntary Contributions: Nor shall I add any thing more to the Arguments I have there used, especially as this Part of our Poor have since fallen under the Consideration of two very honourable and learned Persons, for whom I have a very high Respect and Esteem.

If either of these Bills, with that proposed in this Plan, should pass into a Law, the Poor Rate would then entirely cease of course; and the Statute of *Elizabeth*, with all Laws for providing for the Poor as to this County, might be utterly repealed. The same indeed would be the Case, if the impotent Poor were trusted to voluntary Contributions, as they possibly might, tho' with less Advantage to the Public, especially as to the Education of the Infants, which is a valuable Part in the Schemes of those honourable Persons.

I conclude this Head therefore with asserting, (for so I surely may) that whoever considers my Plan only in this last Respect, and compares the Expence proposed in it with that which is at present annually incurred, must view the Sum of 100,000*l*. (beyond which the whole Expence of building, furnishing, and providing all Kind of Implements, will not rise) as a trifling Sum well laid out in a cheap and valuable Purchase. Private Interest, from this Respect alone, will to every wise Man recommend a Scheme, by which he may propose to be so great a Gainer, to his fullest Consideration; and this Motive, in proportion as he is a good Man, will be greatly enhanced by those Arguments which relate to the Public. There are none so stupid as not to prefer the Payment of 20*l*. once, to the yearly Payment of that Sum; and few so entirely void of all public Spirit, as to be totally indifferent whether that Money which is levied on them be applied to the Good of the Community, or squandered away, as it now is, to no Manner of Purpose.

If there be any Enemies therefore to my Plan, they must be such only as doubt its Efficacy. To these I answer, that absolute

lute Certainty, with regard to a future Event, is not in the Nature of Human Affairs: but let them examine the Plan with Fairness, Impartiality, and Candour; let them well and duly weigh every Part of it, and I am greatly deceived if the Result will not be a strong Opinion of the Probability of its Success; tho' indeed a very small Degree of this Probability would in our present Situation be almost a sufficient Encouragement to the Undertaking.

I have hitherto supposed, that this Sum was to be immediately raised among the present Inhabitants of *Middlesex*, by an additional Poor-Rate: But this is not necessary; for as the Benefit of this Plan is to extend to Posterity, it is equitable that they should contribute towards the Expence. If the Money therefore was granted by a Vote of Credit, at Three and a Half *per Cent.* and only a twentieth or thirtieth Part of the Principal paid off yearly with the Interest, the annual Charge on the County would be so small, that it would scarce be felt; nay, perhaps, if this was done by way of Lottery, it might be so contrived, as to reduce the whole Expence to little or nothing.

XII. *The Appointment of Officers.*] Any Alteration may be made with regard to these, if it shall appear proper. The Number, I think, which I have here mentioned will not be found extravagant, any more than the Salaries allotted to each, when we consider the Trust which they are severally to undertake.

XIII. *The Powers of the Governor.*] Perhaps some further Powers may be found necessary; as to *that of holding a Market*, &c. such open Sale of the Commodities will give great Encouragement to the Labourers, and may be moreover one Means of preventing Frauds, which, in all public Institutions, can never be too well guarded against, too often, or too strictly enquired into, or too severely punished.

Par. XIII. &c. to XXIII. *Who to be sent or admitted in the County-house, &c. with the Manner of sending them.*

XVI. *Persons accused of Petit-Larceny to be committed to the said Houses, &c.*] By the common Law Petit-Larceny is Felony, and it is not within the Power of the Magistrate to compound the Offence, tho' it be ever so trifling, or the Party should appear to be in the highest Degree an Object of Mercy. The Prisoner is therefore to be committed to Goal, where he must often lye in *Middlesex* many Weeks, in other Counties many Months, before he is brought to his Trial. During this Time, his Morals, however bad, are farther corrupted; his Necessities, however pressing before, are increased; his Family, if he hath any, made more wretched; and the Means of providing for himself and them rendered more difficult, if not impossible, for the future, by the total Loss of his Character. If he be acquitted

ted on his Trial, as he often is by the Mercy of the Jury, against clear and positive Evidence, he is again turned loose among the Community with all the Disadvantages I have mentioned above; to which, if he be convicted and whipt, I may add the Circumstance of Infamy, the Marks of which he will be sure to carry on his Forehead, tho' the Hangman very seldom, I believe, leaves any on his Back. What must be the Situation of this Wretch I need not mention; such in Truth it is, that his second Theft is in Reality less criminal than the first. This was perhaps Choice; but that will be Necessity. A late Act of Parliament hath indeed put it in the Power of the Court to transport these Pilferers; but this, tho' probably it may be real Mercy, hath such an Appearance of extreme Severity, that few Judges are willing to inflict such a Punishment on such an Offence. But if it should be the Interest of a Wretch in these Circumstances, to be banished from a Country where he must steal or starve, it is scarce the Interest of the Public to lose every Year a great Number of such able Hands. By the means I have proposed, it seems to me, that the Offender will receive a Punishment proportionable to his Offence; he and his Family may be preserved from utter Ruin, and an able Member, instead of being entirely lost to the Public, will be rendered more useful to it than he was before.

XVII. *That it shall be lawful to seize all suspicious Persons, &c.*] I have observed in another Place *, that tho' we have had several Laws against Vagrants, by which many Misdemeanours have been called and constituted Acts of Vagrancy; yet Vagrancy itself, or wandering about from Place to Place, is not of itself alone punishable. This is an egregious Defect in this Part of our Constitution, and hath been one great Cause of the Increase of Beggars and Thieves. To prevent the wandering of the Poor was the great Purpose, as I have shewn, of the Laws of *Alfred*. It was this which gave that Strength and Energy to those Institutions, which have been praised by so many Pens, both of Lawyers and Historians. Hence it was, that Travellers, as we are told, might pass through the whole Kingdom with Safety; nay, that Bracelets of Gold might be hung up in the public Roads, and found at a distant Time by the Owner in the Place where they were left. Upon these Principles I have formed this Clause, and without it I will venture to say, no Laws whatever for the Suppression of Thieves and Beggars will be found effectual.

I should scarce apprehend, tho' I am told I may, that some Persons should represent the Restraint here laid on the lower People

People as derogatory from their Liberty. Such Notions are indeed of the enthusiastical Kind, and are inconsistent with all Order and all Government. They are the natural Parents of that Licentiousness which it is one main Intent of this whole Plan to cure; which is necessarily productive of most of the Evils of which the Public complains; of that Licentiousness, in a Word, which among the many Mischiefs introduced by it into every Society where it prevails, is sure at last to end in the Destruction of Liberty itself.

As the Clause now stands, I have drawn it with much Caution, and have qualified it with such Restrictions, that I own I cannot see any Inconvenience which can possibly attend it; if any such should appear, it may be qualified yet farther. But if we must on no Account deprive even the lowest People of the Liberty of doing what they will, and going where they will, of Wandering and Drunkenness, why should we deny them that Liberty which is but the Consequence of this? I mean, that of begging and stealing, of robbing and cutting Throats at their good Pleasure: For if these be Evils, they cannot be effectually abolished but by some such Law as this; a Law which hath not only the Sanction of such an Authority as *Alfred*, but of an Act of Parliament in the Reign of *Queen Elizabeth*.

XVIII. *The Poor to travel with a Pass.*] This Method of permitting the Poor to go abroad to work, &c. under a Pass, is taken from an Act of Parliament of *Elizabeth*. I have through this Plan proposed short Precedents of Orders, &c. a Method which it would be well if the Legislature would pursue in all Acts relating to the Office of a Justice of Peace.

XX. *Poor to be passed to the County-house.*] Tho' every Commitment by the Magistrate may carry with it some Notion of Delinquency, yet I would not have the County-house supposed to be a Place of Infamy, or a Confinement there to be so much intended for Punishment as Preservation. It is true indeed that I have, to avoid Confusion, left it in the Breast of the Magistrate to which House he will commit; but surely he will never extend this discretionary Power so far, as to send Persons to the County-house who are convicted of any higher Crimes than barely Wandering and Idleness; which are not infamous in themselves, and therefore should not, nay, cannot be rendered so by any Punishment. The County-house is indeed a Place contrived for the Promotion of Industry only, and is therefore a proper Asylum for the Industrious of their own Accord to fly to for Protection.

XXIII. to XLIII. inclusive. *The Method of receiving the Poor, putting them to Work, and ordering them in these Houses.*

XXII. *Double Entry to be made.*] Through this whole Plan I have endeavoured as much as possible to guard against Fraud, to which human Nature, without proper Checks, is but too liable.

XXIV. *None to depart, &c.*] As it would be hard absolutely to confine Volunteers like Prisoners, so on the other Hand it would be altogether inconvenient to give such Persons full Right of rambling where they please. This might fill the Highways with Thieves and Beggars, and one great Evil, which the Plan intends to abolish, might be increased by it.

XXV. *A Badge to be worn.*] As Persons sent hither by the Justices, must be supposed guilty of some Crime (Idleness at least) it may be proper to distinguish them from those Labourers who are entirely guiltless. And this Distinction is moreover necessary to inform the Officers, whom they are to let out at their Pleasure.

XXVI. *Prisoners to be confined on Bread and Water during twenty-four Hours.* Scarce any Person will be committed hither, who would not by the Law as it now stands have been committed to *Bridewell*, where the Allowance is no more than a Penny Loaf a Day, with Water. To be confined therefore with such Sustenance for twenty-four Hours, cannot be well thought a severe Punishment. The particular Reason why I have inserted it here, is, that the Party, before he be let loose among the other Prisoners, should be perfectly cool; which is seldom the Case when profligate Persons are brought before the Justice, and by him committed to the House of Correction. And if at the Expiration of that Term, the Prisoner should still retain any Signs of outrageous Reprobacy, it will be much more proper to confine him by himself, than to suffer him to infect those who may possibly have made some Advancement in their Cure: And indeed there can be no more effectual Means of bringing most abandoned Profligates to Reason and Order, than those of Solitude and Fasting; which latter especially is often as useful to a diseased Mind, as to a distempered Body. To say Truth, this is a very wholesome Punishment, and is not liable to those ill Consequences which are produced by Punishments attended with Shame: For by once inflicting Shame on a Criminal, we for ever remove that Fear of it, which is one very strong Preservative against doing Evil. Indeed, however this may have been admitted into the Punishments of all Countries, it appears to me to contain in it no less Absurdity, than that of taking away from the Party all Sense of Honour, in order to make him a good Man.

XXVIII. *Prayers every Morning, &c.*] Nothing can I think appear more strange, than the Policy of appointing a Chaplain to *Newgate* and none to *Bridewell*. On a religious Account it is surely very fit to have a proper Person for preparing Men for Death; but in a political View it must seem most extremely absurd to provide for the Regulation of those Morals in which the Society are no longer concerned, and entirely to neglect the Correction and Amendment of Persons who are shortly to be let loose again among the Public, and who are even confined for the Purpose of Correction. The Correction of the Body only was doubtless not the whole End of the Institution of such Houses; and yet it must be allowed a great Defect in that Institution, to leave the Correction of the Mind to the same Hands. In real Truth, Religion is alone capable of effectually executing this Work. This *Solomon* asserted long ago, and the excellent Archbishop *Tillotson*, in a Sermon on his Words, which *Solomon* might have himself preached, hath very nobly expatiated on the Subject.

‘Religion,’ says he, ‘hath a good Influence on the People, to make them obedient to Government, and peaceable towards one another.

‘To make them obedient to Government, and conformable to Laws, and not only for Wrath and out of Fear of the Magistrates Power, which is but a weak and loose Principle of Obedience, and will cease whenever Men can rebel with Safety, and to Advantage; but out of Conscience, which is a firm, and constant, and lasting Principle, and will hold a Man fast when all other Obligations will break. He that hath entertained the true Principles of Christianity, is not to be tempted from his Obedience and Subjection by any worldly Considerations; because he believes, that who ever resisteth Authority, resisteth the Ordinance of God, and that they who resist shall receive to themselves Damnation.

‘Religion tends to make Men peaceable one towards another, for it endeavours to plant all those Qualities and Dispositions in Men which tend to Peace and Unity, and to fill Men with a Spirit of universal Love and good Will. It endeavours likewise to secure every Man’s Interest, by commanding the Observation of that great Rule of Equity, whatsoever ye would that Men should do unto you, do ye even so to them, by in-joining that Truth and Fidelity be inviolably observed in all our Words, Promises and Contracts; and in order hereunto, it requires the Extirpation of all those Passions and Vices which render Men unsociable and troublesome to one another; as Pride, Covetousness and Injustice, Hatred and Revenge and Cruelty; and those likewise which are not so commonly reputed Vices, as Self-Conceit and Peremptoriness in a Man’s own

‘Opinions,

‘ Opinions, and all Peevishness and Incompliance in Things lawful and indifferent.

‘ And that these are the proper Effects of true Piety, the Doctrine of our Saviour and his Apostles every where teaches us. Now if this be the Design of Religion to bring us to this Temper, thus to heal the Natures of Men and to sweeten their Spirits, to correct their Passions, and to mortify all those Lusts which are the Causes of Enmity and Division, then it is evident, that in its own Nature it tends to the Peace and Happiness of human Society? And that if Men would live as Religion requires they should do, the World would be a quiet Habitation, a most lovely and desirable Place in Comparison of what it now is; and indeed the true Reason why the Societies of Men are so full of Tumult and Disorder, so troublesome and tempestuous, is because there is so little of true Religion among Men; so that were it not for some small Remainders of Piety and Virtue which are yet left scattered among Mankind, human Society would in a short Space disband and run into Confusion, the Earth would grow wild and become a great Forest, and Mankind would become Beasts of Prey one towards another, &c.’

So far this great Preacher, the Truth of whose Doctrine I might confirm by Quotations from almost every good Writer, who hath treated of the Rules and Laws of Society, as well as by the Example of all those Legislators by whom the several Societies, which have ever been extant in the World, were first instituted; and therefore, as the learned *Diodorus* long since observed, all great Lawgivers, among whom he includes *Moses*, derived their Commissions from Heaven, and mixt religious Rites with civil Institutions, well knowing how necessary the former were to strengthen and give a proper Sanction to the latter. Nay the very Deist and Atheist himself, if such a Monster there be, must acknowledge the Truth of this Doctrine, since those who will not allow Religion to be a divine, must at least confess that it is a political, Institution, and designed by the Magistrate for the Purpose of guarding his Authority, and of reducing the People to Obedience; ‘ therefore, (says the learn’d Archbishop) Magistrates have always thought themselves concerned to cherish Religion, and to maintain in the Minds of Men the Belief of a God in another Life; nay that common Suggestion of atheistical Persons, that Religion was at first a politic Device, and is still kept up in the World as a state Engine to awe Men into Obedience, is a clear Acknowledgment of the Usefulness of it to the Ends of Government, &c.’

Indeed if this solemn Truth wanted any further Proof, it might be easy to make a melancholy Experiment of it on the present Occasion; since whoever should attempt, without the Assistance

of what I here contend for, to preserve any Order or Decency among such a Body of People as is proposed to assemble together, would, I am convinced, find himself very egregiously, and perhaps very unfortunately; mistaken: If indeed such a Body of Men could be kept together at all, and refrained from the most violent and inordinate Outrages, this could be only effected by a strong and constant military Force; in short by the same Degree of Coertion, as would restrain the Fury of wild Beasts, which are possibly as easy to be governed as wild Men.

That Religion is a very cold and unavailing Motive to Action in the World, is, I am afraid, neither easy to be denied, or difficult to account for. Some there are who are too wise, (I mean in their own Opinions) to believe any of the Truths of it; many more are too far immers'd in the Pursuits of Business or Pleasure; and many, almost all indeed who are the Objects of this Plan, very seldom or never hear the Word Religion mentioned; but Heaven and Hell when well rung in the Ears of those who have not yet learn'd that there are no such Places, and who will give some Attention to what they hear, are by no Means Words of little or no Signification. Hope and Fear, two very strong and active Passions, will hardly find a fuller or more adequate Object to amuse and employ them; this more especially in a Place where there will be so little of Temptation, to rouse or to gratify the evil Inclinations of human Nature; where Men will find so few of those good Things, of this World, for which the other is every Day bartered; and where they will have no Encouragement, from the Example of their Betters, to make so prudent an Exchange. In such a Place, and among such a People, Religion will, I am satisfied, have a very strong Influence in correcting the Morals of Men; and I am no less persuaded, that it is Religion alone which can effectually accomplish so great and so desirable a Work.

XXVIII. XXIX. Need no Explanation, but may be altered as the Legislature pleases.

XXX. *The Keepers, &c. to report the evil or good Behaviour of the Labourers.* Tho' it be the Duty of every Man to obey the Laws of his Country, and no Man is entitled to any Reward for the Performance of his Duty; and therefore Legislators are not to be accused of Severity in annexing Punishment to the Breach of their Laws, while they have assigned no Reward to the obedient: However, I am inclined to think they have not omitted the latter so much from this Persuasion, as from foreseeing the great Difficulties in which it would have involved them: for tho' it be impossible in large and extended Societies, to preserve a general Course as well of rewarding as punishing, yet the wisest Governments have endeavoured, as far as in them

lies, to avail themselves of the Force of Allurement, as well as of Terror. Hence, that Indulgence in all Nations to the Wealth and Luxury of their great Men, which *Gallus Affinius* in *Tacitus* calls *Delinimenta Curarum & Periculorum*. Hence all those Titles and Honours, with which Politicians have baited for the Ambition of Mankind; and hence, when the public Stock could afford no more of real Value, those gewgaw trifling Distinctions, which, in spite of all the Ridicule of the witty and Scorn of the wise, the greedy Appetite of Vanity will be always ready to swallow.

In large Societies, however, all these can reach but a little Way, and can be shared by very few. Of great Armies, scarce the hundredth Part can partake of any Reward for the most notable Exploits, and most complete Victories. The rest must content themselves with the Consciousness of having done their Duty, and of having escaped that Punishment to which Cowardice would have subjected them, and of which they fail not of seeing sufficient Examples.

I much question whether the outrageous Indecency of the lowest Part of Mankind among us, can be derived from a truer Cause than this. As they have no Hopes of Reward, be they as good as they will, why should we wonder that they are as bad as they can be, when they have no Fear of incurring Punishment? And very bad indeed they may often be, without any such Danger. For their Idleness at least this will very sufficiently account. From this there is neither Hope of public Reward to allure, nor Fear of public Punishment to deter; What Wonder then, if those who are inclined to Idleness, should indulge their Inclination, and betake themselves to begging, a better Trade perhaps than any to which Industry can tempt them to turn their Hands?

Now, in the Society here proposed, there will be no less Opportunity of rewarding Industry, than of punishing Idleness; nor need these Rewards be very expensive to the public Chest, since they will be so extremely honourable to those who receive them. By a very moderate and judicious Distribution of such Rewards for Industry, and a very gentle Infliction of Punishment for Idleness, I make no Doubt but that in the County House the former might be rendered as honourable, and the latter as infamous, as any Virtue and Vice have ever been held in any Nation upon Earth.

XXXI. The Utility, and, I think, Necessity of this Paragraph may be suffered to speak for itself, and so shall the two next.

XXXIV. *Money to be advanc'd, &c.*] As many of the Persons to be committed hither, or who may voluntarily come hither,

hither, will possibly be Pennyles, some Advancement to them will be necessary for their Support. The *Quantum* is submitted to the Legislature, as well as the Method which I have proposed for the Repayment.

XXXV. *Prisoners to be allowed one Shilling weekly.*] This is somewhat less than *2d per Diem*; which is much larger than the present Bridewell Allowance; but as the Intent is, that they shall be really kept to hard Labour, it will be necessary to support them somewhat better, than when they were to remain in Idleness.

XXXVI. *Deductions to be made, &c.*] As the Society have a Right to the Labour of Delinquents, by Way of Punishment, allowing them only a necessary Support; and as they here exercise this Right in the Case of those who are committed to the House of Correction; so the Defalcation from Persons committed to the County House, will, I believe, appear very reasonable; as these are in some Degree Offenders, and the Objects at least of some small Punishment. As to the Deduction of one Penny from the Volunteers, it should be considered as a reasonable Price for Lodging, Fire, Candles, &c. which are here provided for them.

XXXVII. *The Receiver to make up his Accounts after every Sale.*] I have endeavoured to shut out Fraud as much as possible through this whole Plan, if any stronger Bars can be added, I hope they will.

XXXVIII. *An Account to be kept in separate Pages.*] In order to have these Accounts well and often inspected, they must be rendered easy. The Method I have chalked out, was the best I could invent for this Purpose; but perhaps a much better may be found by some who are more versed in these Matters.

XXXIX. The several Branches of this Paragraph need no Comment.

XL. *The Labourers to be instructed in all kinds of Manufactures.*] Upon the right Management of the Power given in this Paragraph, depends in a great Measure the Utility of the whole Plan; and the Improvement of those Advantages which I propose from bringing the Poor together. It is this principally which will require great Capacity in the Governor; and that he should be always a Man of much Knowledge and Experience. Which Qualifications if he should possess, and will do his Duty, in applying them, I doubt not but most of the advantageous Manufactures of Europe, may be by these Means introduced into the Nation.

XLII. to XLVI. *inclusive. Crimes with their Punishment.*

XLIII. XLIV. As the Crimes mentioned in these two Paragraphs must be guarded against with the utmost Precaution, the Punishment of them cannot possibly be less than that *Ultimum*

Supplicium, which is here allotted to them. This, I think, no Man can have any Doubt of, who considers the Numbers and Nature of the People here to be assembled. The same Consideration will remove all Appearance of Severity from the Punishments inflicted in the 38th and 39th Paragraphs.

XLVI. The Persons who are here to be transported, seem of all others the most proper Objects of that Punishment. This, however, some of them may possibly avoid by the Alternative proposed, which is perhaps the only Method of converting a Fellow to some Use, who would be otherwise good for nothing. It is to be hoped that the military Gentlemen will, on this Occasion, depart a little from their usual Nicety, with Regard to the Morals of their Recruits; since a Man may have great military Qualifications, and may yet be very properly turned out of a civil Society.

XLIX. This is taken from the last Gin Act, with little Variation, and is of the utmost Consequence to all the Purposes of this Plan.

L. LI. LII. Are submitted without any Comment.

LIII. *Judicial Power of the Governor, &c.*

LIII. Nothing conduces more to the good Order of any Society, than the moderate Punishment of small Offences; this is properly called Correction, since by it the Manners of the Party are often corrected, and he is prevented from the Commission of greater Crimes. Such Punishments should be always attended with Reproof, and an Endeavour to persuade the Offender that he is corrected only for his own Good. It must be remembered however, that they are the better, and milder Dispositions which are to be much amended this Way; and therefore Shame should, as little as possible, be mixed with such Correction. The Articles here subjected to the Governor's Jurisdiction, are for the most part Peccadillos, and therefore he can scarce be too mild or moderate in his Correction for the first Offence, especially if attended with Contrition. Indeed his Power of punishing here is but small, and favours more of a Master than a Magistrate. On a second Offence he may be a little more severe, and it may commonly be proper to go to the Extent of his Power. But a third Offence of the same Kind, and within the Time limited, argues an incorrigible Temper, and favours of the Spirit of Resistance to Government: Here he punishes as a Magistrate, and the Punishment is of the exemplary Kind, tending rather to raise Terror in others, than to work the Reformation of the Party himself.

Among other Powers, the Governor hath that of regulating the Price of Provisions. The Method of supplying the Labourers with these is a problematical Question, and it may admit of much

much Debate, whether it would be better to provide for them, or to suffer them to provide for themselves? In behalf of the former Method it may be urged, that many Persons joining together in a Mess, may be provided for at a much cheaper Rate than the same Number separately.

2. That possibly they may not of themselves chuse to join; and it may therefore be proper to compel them by a coercive Power.

3. That if they should for the most Part agree to mess together, the Savings on that Account should be preserved to the Use of the House.

4. That some of them, when they are Masters of their own Money, will chuse to stint themselves of Food, in order to be more plentifully supplied with Drink; which, besides causing Disorders, will tend to weaken their Bodies, to incapacitate them for Labour, and render them sickly, &c.

On the other Side it may be answered, 1. That allowing the Expediency of their messing together, it can hardly be supposed but that in such a Body sufficient Numbers will always be found for that Purpose.

2. That when this is voluntary, it will be much more eligible than when it is by Coercion, which, where the Spirits of Men are so fired with Freedom as in this Nation, is never submitted to in small and unaccustomed Matters, without Uneasiness and Heart-burning.

3. That by the Power of constantly regulating the Prices of Provisions, condescending to particularize every minute Article, there will be little Difference between employing Servants or employing Sutlers, in the manner as is here appointed; and the latter will be attended with much the less Confusion.

4. That the Liberty of providing for themselves, at their own Discretion, and of laying out their Money, is but a reasonable Liberty; and the Refusal of it favours too much of the Treatment of Children: Nor is it without some Tincture of Injustice, for those who eat less will by such Means be obliged to pay equally with those who eat more.

5. That as to the Restraint from laying out too much of their Money in Drink, this Restraint seems needless, while they receive the Allowance of the House; and when by their own Indultry they become possessed of Money, it will be altogether as ineffectual: Besides, proper Care is taken on this Head, by absolutely prohibiting the Introduction of spirituous Liquors, and by punishing any Kind of Drunkenness.

Upon the Whole, the Method here proposed seems to me the better; but perhaps it will be most proper to leave this Matter open

open to the Discretion of the Governor and Sessions, who may act therein as they shall find most convenient.

LIV. *The Jurisdiction of the Session.*

I submit this whole Paragraph, with any Alterations in it which may be thought proper, without a Comment : Nor doth the Residue of the Plan seem to want any Explanation.

Thus have I laid my Plan before the Public, with all that I have to say in its Support or Recommendation. They will, as they please, receive it in the Whole, or in Part ; will alter, amend, or entirely reject it, at their Discretion. Whatever shall be the Fate of my Labour, it will not find me quite unprepared : and though my Plan should be treated by some as an impossible, by others as an absurd or ridiculous Scheme, it will neither spoil my Stomach, nor break my Rest. I do not affect an absolute or Stoical Indifference on this Occasion ; I mean no more than to be as little solicitous as it is possible about Events, whatever Trouble I have taken in using the Means ; a Temper of Mind for which I am not a little obliged to my great Master's Advice,

*Quem fors dierum cunque dabit, lucro
Appone.*

And again,

Grata superveniet quæ non sperabitur hora.

The forming which into a general Precept, and then reducing that Precept into a Habit, hath cost me more Pains than I have employed in composing the foregoing Pages ; nor is the former Labour thrown away, whatever may become of the latter.

Besides the fair Opponents mentioned in the Introduction, and those whom the Imperfections of my Plan may raise, I am to apprehend, I am well convinced, many who will be interested in the Opposition. Some are Enemies to all Schemes whatever, and some to all Schemes but their own ; others there are, who find an Advantage in the present wretched State of the Poor, and in the numerous Laws concerning them. Lastly, I sometimes flatter myself, that I have some few Enemies ; Men who do me the Honour of thinking better either of my Parts, or of my Fortune, than I do myself ; and who consequently hate me from the only Motive which can prompt a Man to hate those who have done him no Injury : These will, I presume, not only deny all Merit to the Execution of my Design, but to the Design itself ; and will discover, that instead of intending a Provision for the Poor, I have been carving out one for myself, and have very cunningly projected to build myself a fine House at the Expence of the Public. This would be to act in direct Opposition to the Advice of my above Master : it would be indeed

Struere domos immemor sepulchri.

Those

Those, who do not know me, may believe this ; but those who do, will hardly be so deceived by that Chearfulness which was always natural to me ; and which, I thank God, my Conscience doth not reprove me for, to imagine that I am not sensible of my declining Constitution. In real Truth, if my Plan be embraced, I shall be very easily recompenced for my Trouble, without any Concern in the Execution. Ambition or Avarice can no longer raise a Hope, or dictate any Scheme to me, who have no farther Design than to pass my short Remainder of Life in some Degree of Ease, and barely to preserve my Family from being the Objects of any such Laws as I have here proposed.

P I N I S.

[illegible]